

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LIII.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 8TH JUNE, 1901.

No. 23.

CONTENTS.

Epitome of the Week, &c.	456
Leading Articles:—	
International Rowdism in North China	466
The Iekin Question	466
The Threatened Chinese Exodus	466
The Health of Hongkong	467
The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon's Report	467
The Crisis: Telegrams	468
The Plague	468
New Range for Volunteers	468
Macao	469
Colonial Life in Formosa	469
Peking	470
Northern Notes	470
H.B.M.'s Consul in Japan	471
Manila Commissary Scandals	471
The Seoul-Fusan Railway	471
Correspondence	471
Supreme Court	474
Hongkong Rifle Association	475
Hongkong Volunteer Corps	475
Royal Hongkong Golf Club	475
Hongkong and Port News	475
Commercial	477
Shipping	479

BIRTHS.

On the 23rd May, at Kuala Lumpur, the wife of D. J. HIGHT, of a daughter.
On the 24th May, at Kobe, the wife of F. G. SALE, of a son.
On the 28th May, at Singapore, the wife of OWEN HAROLD WAIT, of a daughter.
On the 3rd June, 1901, at No. 2, St. Francis Street, Hongkong, the wife of J. T. COTTON, Inspector of Markets, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 29th May, 1901, at Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., FRANCIS ARTHUR BLAKE, Jr., of Shanghai, to FLORENCE ADIEE WOMERSLEY.
On the 1st June, at the U.S. Consulate-General, Shanghai, by the Rev. J. R. Hykes, in the presence of the U.S. Consul-General, SAMUEL EBENEZER GREEN to ELIZABETH BANKER, both of Shanghai.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 4th May arrived, per M. M. steamer *Sydney*, on the 5th June (32 days); and the English Mail of the 10th May arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Chusan*, on the 6th June (27 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The *Echo de Chine* says it is reported that the Germans have decided to leave a garrison at Shanghai for five or six years at least, and that they are going to build barracks.

The *Kinsha*, late *Pioneer*, which was taken over by the British Government from Mr. Archibald Little, left Chungking for Shanghai on the 2nd inst., and reached Ichang after 24 hours steaming.

On the 2nd inst., another international row occurred in the Taku Road, Tientsin. Two Germans were killed, and five French and one Briton wounded. The French General commanding has prohibited his men from entering the British Settlement. Our correspondent says that "it is not expected that the present state of tranquillity will last."

A Canton despatch to Shanghai states that the family of the three distinguished reformers, Lo, Liang, and Tang, have been set free by H.E. Tao Mu, the enlightened and progressive Viceroy of that province. It will be remembered that the three reformers were members of the "Society for Rescuing the Emperor," which was started by Kang Yu-wei, and that their families were arrested by the Canton high authorities presumably under the order of the Dowager Empress.

According to the *Mainichi*, the Korean Government notified the British Acting Minister last month that the residence of Mr. McLeavy Brown and the control of the Customs business must be surrendered on or before the 31st of the month, as a preliminary to the cancellation of Mr. Brown's agreement, which is to be annulled when the loan affair is finally concluded. The loan affair is making no progress, it is added, but it is expected that a settlement will be effected when the Korean demands regarding Mr. Brown are complied with. It is stated by the *Asahi* that the arrival of the French cruiser *Pascal* in Chemulpo from Taku is understood to have some significance, and it is rumoured that more French warships are expected shortly.

The negotiations for the formation of a Cabinet by Count Inouye have for the present failed, says a Tokyo telegram of the 23rd ult. to the *Osaka Asahi*. Count Inouye has not succeeded in inducing the gentlemen he desired to include in the Cabinet to accept office, and the efforts of Marquis Yamagata and Marquis Ito to assist Count Inouye have proved fruitless. Yesterday morning Count Inouye called on Marquis Ito and informed him of his failure, and urged Marquis Ito to once more accept office, in which case he would be willing himself to take the Financial portfolio. In the afternoon Count Inouye called on Marquis Yamagata, Marquis Saigo, and Marquis Saionji, and informed them of the position. Marquis Ito, however, has absolutely declined the request of Count Inouye, and has left Tokyo for Oiso. Count Inouye has decided to surrender his commission to form a Cabinet and has asked Marquis Saionji to present his decision to the Throne. The Premier waited upon the Emperor to-day and laid the decision of Count Inouye before his Majesty.

From the Shanghai native papers it appears that extra precautions are being taken nightly by the Russians at Port Arthur, and that they play their search-lights upon the entrance lest the ships of other countries should secretly obtain an entrance. It seems that in the Post Office it is allowable to open all suspected letters. Recently the Post Office authorities opened a letter written by an American in which an accurate description of the forts and garrison was set forth for the information of Americans. The writer was at once arrested and imprisoned. He got a friend to inform his Consul of his awkward predicament. The Consul telegraphed his Minister, and his Minister telegraphed his home Government. The home Government telegraphed to the American Minister to Russia, and he saw the Russian Foreign Minister, the final result being the release of the prisoner after more than three weeks' incarceration. All newspapers, foreign and Chinese, must first pass the official censor. If there is anything adjudged to be detrimental to Russia the paper is promptly suppressed.

M. Delcassé's statement in the French Chamber this week was to the effect that France thought the immediate payment by China of a lump sum preferable. A foreign guarantee, he said, was necessary.

H.M.S. *Tulbot*, which arrived at Singapore from England via Colombo on the morning of the 31st ult., continued on her journey and reached this port on Thursday morning. The *Tulbot* is, as we have already stated, a second-class cruiser, of 5,600 tons displacement and 9,600 i.h.p. Her armour is 3in. gun position, and 1½-in. deck. She carries five 6in. Q.F., six 4.7in., nine 12prs., one 3pr., four Maxims and one light gun; and three torpedo tubes (two submarine). Her speed is 2 knots. She has relieved H.M.S. *Bonaventure*.

Details about the Korean loan are contradictory. The U.S. Minister at Seoul has addressed an official note to the Korean Government demanding explanations of the proposal to offer the Customs revenues in security of the French loan, while the said revenues had formerly been offered to an American syndicate which contracted to build the waterworks for the Korean Government in Seoul. On the 24th ult. the British Acting Minister was received in audience by the Emperor at 10 a.m., and the Japanese Minister at 11.30 a.m. The former offered his credentials from King Edward VII, and some advice in connection with Mr. Brown. The Japanese Minister spoke about the replacing of the Japanese military officers in the Seoul garrison and also about the question. At 4 p.m. the Emperor was in audience of the Emperor's Ministers.

The *Weihsien* correspondent at Shanghai *Mercury*, writing on the 23rd ult., states:—The *Centurion* arrived here on the 31st ult., and after coaling left again for Taku for the purpose of giving the crew an opportunity of visiting Peking before they go home. As Admiral Seymour has already visited the northern capital, he has temporarily transferred his flag to the *Alacrity*, in which vessel he has gone to Newchwang and Chemulpo, and will return here in about ten days' time when the *Centurion* is also expected back, and when the fleet will go through its annual manoeuvres using this port as its base. The *Terrible* still occupies a large portion of our harbour, and when the crew of this vessel are not doing their own work they are generally doing something on shore for the benefit of the community. They have made a very good road round the northern side of the island, and have also put the cemetery into order, which was sadly needed. Capt. Scott is full of energy, and his latest scheme is to make a bicycle track from here to Chefoo—a consummation devoutly to be wished. On the island the forts are rapidly being built, and are so far advanced that the public are not now allowed near. General Dornard has imported some 4,000 trees from Japan. These have all been planted on the island, and in a few years' time will no doubt make a goodly show. During the troubles in Corea, the 1st Chinese Regiment had orders to hold 60 men in readiness to start at 6 hours' notice. On the whole the troops were all keen on going. "Was there a man dismayed?" No! for their thoughts were fixed—fixed on fresh plunder—and they were all very sorry when, as time wore on, they knew that their services would not be required.

INTERNATIONAL ROWDYISM IN NORTH CHINA.

(Daily Press, 5th June.)

Another disgraceful incident has marked the story of the occupation of North China by the allied troops. No details as to how the disturbance arose are yet to hand, and all that we know is that on Sunday last there was a row in which two men were killed and six wounded, the former being Germans, and five of the latter French and one British. The scene was the Taku Road, which runs, roughly speaking, along the original limits of the French, British, and German Concessions at Tientsin. We may perhaps surmise that some of the participants in the row were the worse for liquor, for in all the previous international street disturbances during the past year those who have started the brawls have been more or less intoxicated. The usual course of events has been that some soldier or sailor, while in this state, has commenced to use insulting language toward one of the allied nations, with provocative intent. The representatives of the other nation have never been slow to take up the challenge. Blows then follow, and bystanders espouse the cause of their compatriots. Sometimes the police are involved. In any case there is all the material for a sanguinary affair. In the recent brawl at Nagasaki, one party, the British sailors, were unarmed; the Japanese police did not interfere; and in consequence H.M.S. *Barfleur* lost two of her men, the perpetrators of the murders getting away scot-free on the French transport *Nive*. Since that date both at Peking and at Tientsin there have been numerous unpleasant incidents, the most serious of which was the shooting of a Russian officer by a German sentry, who, however, seems to have been exonerated from blame, the Russian being drunk and violent. The latest addition to the list of brawls is even graver, to judge merely from the number of casualties involved. On this occasion there is only one Briton injured, but whether this is from the fact that few of our nationals were concerned in the affair or because on this occasion they were armed, it is impossible to say.

The importance of such occurrences lies not in the number of men killed or wounded, but in the deduction which must be made as to the feasibility of maintaining an international garrison in Peking and Tientsin, and on the lines of communication. The European Governments can look forward with no confidence to the proposed "international fortress" at Peking. They must ask themselves with trepidation the question—*Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?* The Legation quarter promises, under the suggested conditions, to be anything but a desirable place for the representatives of the Powers, their staffs and families. It has been recommended in a home paper that if the fortress in question is actually to be a fact the Allies shall take it in turns to garrison it, and that the posts on the lines of communication between Peking and the sea shall be divided in such a way as to prevent the various nations from coming into contact. This recommendation is politic, but what a sight will be presented to the Chinese, whose bad behaviour we have been for a year engaged in punishing! Even the Boxers have been less dangerous to some of the international troops than their own "allies." We cannot avoid the conviction that much of the blame in the various brawls lies in the absolute lack of discipline allowed to the various contingents when they are off duty. The unrestrained drunkenness on the part of so many Euro-

pean (and, we must add also, American) soldiers and sailors is responsible for these disgraceful street-rows. The officers show little concern whether their men behave like beasts or not. On several occasions, after a slight trouble has occurred and bad feeling is known to exist, the men have been allowed exactly the same freedom on the following day, with the result that a far greater disturbance has come to pass. With such neglect of duty on the part of the officers and with the men as irresponsible as they are wont to be, it is little to be wondered that the credit of Western civilisation has received enormous damage. Even excellent troops can lapse into a state little better than savagery under certain conditions, including insufficient discipline. In North China now there are some excellent troops; but there is a large riff-raff from all the world. Let the former get under the influence of national dislikes and strong liquor combined, and let the latter follow their bent, and we see—what we have seen so many instances of recently in China. If the Powers seriously intend to maintain international garrisons in the North for any length of time, they have before them the plain duty of concerting measures whereby their men may live in discipline and in harmony with their allies.

THE LEKIN QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 4th June.)

During the long and tedious negotiations which have been progressing during the greater part of the current year with regard to the means by which China is to meet the claims made on her by the various foreign Powers, the question of *lekin* dues has been largely discussed. The Chinese offer early last month to find 450,000,000 taels for payment of the Powers' demands included a sum of no less than 2,000,000 taels from *lekin* taxation. Were the indemnity question less complicated than it is, the Powers, or at least such of them whose interests in China are commercial, not political, would no doubt press for an immediate abolition of this system of taxation. In connection with this matter, certain remarks which appeared in our Shanghai morning contemporary, the *North-China Daily News*, may well be quoted. "It has been laid down 'some time ago,' says the Shanghai journal, 'by foreign merchants engaged in the China trade that they would make no objection to a reasonable, even a considerable, increase in the Customs tariff, if *lekin* were abolished altogether. To this our Government should strictly adhere. It should set its face like a flint against any manipulation of *lekin* such as confining it to native goods, or collecting it in certain places through the Foreign Customs. *Lekin* as a form of taxation is so essentially bad that no manipulation of it can make it tolerable; the only admissible course is to do away with it altogether. Like our own income tax, *lekin* is a modern tax, introduced some fifty years ago for a temporary purpose, to provide funds for the suppression of the Taiping Rebellion; and again like our own income tax, it has been kept on long after its original purpose was satisfied. Its currency is associated with half a century of decay and retrogression everywhere in China except at the treaty ports, and it is as unprofitable to the central government of China as it is vexatious to the native trader. We strongly deprecate any manipulation of it in connection with the indemnity, because the result would inevitably be to make it a permanent curse to the country, and so entrench it that future attacks on it by

"the mercantile community will be defeated beforehand."

It is perhaps hardly necessary to quote instances in support of the assertion that *lekin* is inimical to the expansion of trade. Residents in South China are well enough acquainted with the facts of the case to dispense with the piling up of instances. With the conclusions of our contemporary whom we have quoted above, none will, we imagine, be disposed to disagree; nor yet with the remarks which follow. "Unless a 'well-paid and vigilant foreign official,' continues our contemporary, 'is stationed at each of the thirteen hundred magistries in China, it will be impossible for the Customs or any similar board to protect the native trader from extortion, as long as *lekin* is allowed to exist in any shape. If it were arranged that the Customs should collect the *lekin* at the treaty port on other imports, as is done with opium, an exemption certificate being granted, as long as *lekin* exists in the interior there would be officials to examine these exemption certificates as the cargo passed their stations, and they would necessarily get their pay by extortion. The well-being of trade in China depends on her exports being stimulated, and we know that to increase the exports of the country, it is imperative to abolish *lekin* and all inland and transit dues of whatever nature, whatever supposed safeguards may be adopted in their collection. Merchants could afford to pay on a scale of fifteen per cent. *ad valorem* on imports and exports if all inland taxation were honestly suppressed; and as it must be remembered that it would cost the Imperial Maritime Customs no more to collect fifteen per cent. than five per cent., any gross increase in the amount they collect will be equivalent to a net increase in inland taxation." There is, of course, a large number of officials now employed in connection with the *lekin* collection, while the provinces themselves derive large revenues from the money thus accruing to them. A large proportion of the increase in the Imperial Maritime Customs tariff would have, therefore, to go to the provincial authorities, while it can be held certain that the expansion of trade resulting to China from the establishment of a new regime would enable the displaced officials to find employment in more honourable situations. The inconvenience and injustice of the old system has been a commonplace for very many years. We hope that among the improvements introduced by the settlement of Chinese affairs, it is not yet too late to look for a final condemnation of the *lekin* system.

THE TREATENED CHINESE EXODUS.

(Daily Press, 5th June.)

We have spoken already of the scare caused among the Chinese in this Colony by the present epidemic of plague, and of the difficulties now encountered by many employers, who find that their workmen are leaving them after receiving their wages on pay-day and making their escape into Chinese territory. From many sources we have received confirmation of our statement, and some prominent natives have not hesitated to speak of the possibility of a wide-spread strike if the plague continues to increase and the sanitary regulations are strictly enforced. We learn too of an application to a leading shipping firm in Hongkong by one of the principal Chinese charitable medical institutions to allow Chinese to proceed to Canton by the firm's

vessels if they can produce a certificate from the institution in question that they are not suffering from plague. The application to which we refer admits that the Chinese concerned may be suffering from other complaints, but trusts that the firm will nevertheless permit them to use its vessels for passage to Canton. The argument is that the alarm felt by so many of our Chinese residents will thus be largely allayed. The soundness of this is questionable, we think. We do not see how the panic will be lessened by the sight of streams of Chinese making the best speed out of the Colony. On the contrary, it is probable that as many as can will follow the example set. We shall then be brought face to face with a grave economic crisis. We have no labour with which to replace the Chinese, and therefore it is obvious that any approach to a general strike or any excessive emigration would simply bring many businesses to a complete standstill. Nor do we see how the Chinese institution to which we have referred above is going to guarantee that the fugitives have not the germs of plague in them. It may be said that they are only going to Canton, and that China does not object to receiving them. But having reached Canton, do they all intend to stay there, and can we be sure that Canton will not be but the first stage in their escape to other ports? It is probable that if our Government sanctions a wholesale exodus from Hongkong, the first result will be severer measures against us by the neighbouring ports. The effect of the proposed emigration on our own trade and on our relations with our neighbours must be seriously considered in connection with this new Chinese suggestion.

THE HEALTH OF HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 3rd June.)

Dr. FRANCIS CLARK has the aptitude of making a dry departmental document interesting even to the lay mind. His Annual Report, as it appears in the *Government Gazette* of 25th May, is no exception. It positively bristles with hard, incontrovertible facts, and is a perfect armoury of weapons of offence and defence in connection with vital and sanitary statistics and statements. There is a decrease of 14 non-Chinese dwellings, as compared with 1899; and yet it is indisputably a fact that the number of houses usually classed as European residences was considerably augmented during the year. This apparent contradiction in terms is explained, when we reflect that such houses are, at the present moment, being largely bought and inhabited by the wealthy Chinese. As the non-Chinese section of the community, white and coloured, is greater than it was in 1899, it inevitably follows that its members are more crowded together now than before. During the year under notice, under the needs of the Insanitary Properties Act, as evidence of the unexampled activity in every branch of the building trade, the plans of new erections laid before the Medical Officer of Health were more than double what they were in 1899; and those of buildings wanting alteration were more than quadruple of the same class of work in the previous year. This is distinctly satisfactory, and broadly indicative of general prosperity. The results of the recent Census show us that the population, more markedly now than ever before, is one of male adults. This decidedly disagreeable tendency is mainly, if not wholly, attributable to increased rentals, and to the enhanced price of food, fuel and the necessities of life. Dr. CLARK's remarks on the

corrected birth-rate are characteristic and pointed. The callous heartlessness of Chinese towards infant female lives is well-nigh proverbial. In Cantonese there is a euphemism by which a new-born child is styled a *shit pūn fo*, or a *chūn ts'in ke*, i.e., an article on which money is lost, or one on which there is a gain: the former expression alluding to a girl, the latter to a boy. These two phrases very accurately gauge the ineradicable national repugnance to infant girls. The statistics given under the heading of Deaths will administer a mild shock of not unpleasant surprise to most; and yet they are absolutely correct. During the 9th decade of the old century, there was an annual average death-rate of 27.84 per 1,000; the worst year being 1885, when the figures rose to well over 32. In the 10th decade, although plague returns are included, the annual rate fell to 23.40, the worst year, as might be expected, being 1894, *l'année terrible*, when bubonic plague made its appearance and the rate that year went up to 30.37. Excluding deaths from plague, and utilising the figures given by Dr. CLARK, the average annual rate of mortality for the period 1891-1900 comes out at slightly under 20.54 per 1,000, which, in whatever way we look at it, may be regarded as evidence of sanitary progress. Whether or no this progress is as great as it should have been, is a very moot question. Out of 59 deaths among the military, 20, or over a third, were due to malarial fever; while of 188 recorded deaths among the non-Chinese resident civil community, only 9, or less than one-twentieth were due to the same cause. This needless disproportion Dr. CLARK makes ground for advocating the isolation of Barracks from the native population. The table showing infant mortality rate per mille, during the past five years, seems to be clear proof that the pinch of poverty, combined with the stress and aggravated intensity of the fierce struggle for bare existence, has practically annihilated what little altruistic sense Chinese parents possess, even in respect of male infant lives. The figures given are appalling in their dread eloquence, and seem almost incredible. The total number of deaths among the Chinese from malaria, was greatly in advance of the number in 1899. The utter extermination of the *anopheles* mosquito, for the immediate present at least, is outside the pale of possibility, although much may be done to limit its baleful sphere of action. All effort should be centred on the protection of Europeans; and the greatest step in this direction will have been taken when European reservations are insisted on. The part of the Report dealing with this grave matter is put with the utmost cogency, and should be given the closest attention. Deaths among the Chinese from *beri-beri*, which recent research seems to connect with the consumption as food of mouldy rice, are nearly double what they were in 1899, and work out at 1.29 per 1,000 of the land community, and at 1.64 per 1,000 of the floating population. In his Report for 1897, Dr. CLARK advanced the theory that Asiatics are not naturally immune to enteric fever, as many medical authorities aver, but that they are invariably protected by an attack in infancy. His subsequent experience lends a distinct colour of probability to this ingenious theory. We purposely refrain from touching upon several other points in this Report, because they have been ably handled in "Scrutator's" third letter. The whole document, with its exhaustive tables, is worth the attentive perusal of any and all who take intelligent interest in the Colony's well-being. It is a

fearless, unexaggerated, dispassionate, and—as far as an official Report can be—impartial record of unremitting honest effort, and of good work steadily, solidly and unshirkingly accomplished in the face of constantly recurring difficulties, much clogging discouragement, and many hampering trammels; and, on this score alone, it should be generously awarded the most unstinted approval and support. The Colony has cause to be grateful, to say the least, for the unselfish and devoted services of such a man as our Medical Officer of Health.

THE COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON'S REPORT.

(Daily Press, 6th June.)

The recently published Annual Report of Mr. C. VIVIAN LADDS, our hard-worked Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, is a distressing chronicle of excellent work uninterruptedly effected, in spite of many disheartening hindrances, and of not a few legitimate grievances; chief among which latter are a hopelessly insufficient staff for the extremely important and valuable work assigned to it, and a scale of salaries so ridiculously low as to give cause for the gravest discontent and dissatisfaction. The labourer, no matter how lowly his sphere of toil, is worthy of his hire: and the Government should see that Mr. LADDS's pertinent remarks on the matter of salaries paid to the subordinates of this sub-department are placed on a proper footing, and bear some fitting relation to the nature of the work done. The Animal Depôts and Shambles at Kennedy Town, and the ten Public Markets scattered up and down the Island and on the Peninsula opposite, rank among the safest and most steadily paying of Government departments: and yet, Mr. LADDS, time and again, has seen his suggestions set aside and ignored, to all appearance, with no satisfactory reason. Such myopic policy, in ordinary mercantile life, would assuredly spell financial disaster. To give a specific example; in the middle of last year Mr. LADDS pointed out to the Sanitary Board that the extensive establishment at Kennedy Town—Animal Depôts and Slaughter-houses—could not be properly supervised by one Inspector; and suggested that two men, of lower grade, should be appointed to assist. The suggestion was not approved. It should be remembered that the killing of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs and the dressing of their carcasses as food go on continuously in the Shambles, night and day, for seven days each week; so that Inspector A. WATSON, the Inspector-in-charge, theoretically at least, is on duty twenty-four hours a day, year in and year out, Sundays not excluded. As to the question of the capability of these buildings to bear the cost of the extra men asked for, it is stated that, after all working expenses have been paid, they have brought in to the Colonial Treasury during the six years they have been in existence, no less a sum than two and a third lakhs of dollars—an amount, as is pointed out, more than double their total cost. Further comment on this particular matter is needless. Shau-kiwan and Aberdeen, with which Aplichaui must be classed as it is a part of the latter place, still lack proper slaughter-houses, although the former place kills daily an average of twelve head of swine, and the latter about half that number. It should be borne in mind that both these thriving localities have a large floating population directly dependent on them for their supplies of fresh meat. It is difficult to imagine how such niggardliness on the part of those

in power can be defended. Anyone who goes into the Central Market must have noticed that the present arrangement of electric lights is an out-and-out failure. Mr. LADDS informs us that the Gas Company agreed to light adequately both floors of the building, with Wellsbach incandescent burners, for an annual sum of not more than \$4,000. In 1899, for the dim twilight shed from the electric lamps installed, the cost was nigh on \$7,200. And yet this excessive amount is to be considerably augmented, for additional lights over each shop in one section of the Central Market are even now being experimented with. In face of the local Gas Company's offer, the present lighting of this extensive block amounts to a gross and wilful waste of public money. The mere saving that could be effected by accepting the Gas Company's arrangement would provide funds for two extra officials asked for at the Kennedy Town establishment: while the money that presumably will be further squandered on extending the experiment now in progress would be much better employed in obtaining extra market and food inspectors. Mr. LADDS's remarks on the lack of market accommodation, and the scandals arising therefrom—a subject to which we have referred on previous occasions, in no measured terms—amount to a substantive indictment of those who are responsible for the existing stringency. It is acknowledged on all hands that the markets are an unfailing perennial source of revenue; and exactly why the Government neglects to keep pace with the demands in this direction is totally inexplicable. Over \$80,000 were collected as market-dues last year. Mr. LADDS is to be congratulated on his frank, unvarnished account, and the Colony on the possession of such an energetic and outspoken servant.

THE CRISIS TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

SHANGHAI, 3rd June, 8 p.m.

Another row occurred in the Taku Road, Tientsin, yesterday. As a result, five Frenchmen and one British were wounded, and two Germans were killed.

The *Kinsha*, late *Pioneer*, left Chungking for Shanghai to-day.

SHANGHAI, 5th June, 9.40 p.m.

The Wu Ying Tien at Peking, containing priceless records of the dynasties which have ruled over China, was completely burnt down last night. The cause of the fire has not yet been ascertained.

SHANGHAI, 6th June, 10.25 p.m.

At Tientsin the French General commanding has prohibited his men from entering the British Settlement. It is not expected that the present state of tranquillity will last.

The *Kinsha*, formerly called the *Pioneer*, arrived at Ichang after a 24 hours' run from Chungking.

From private advices received from Samshui on Thursday, we learn that George L. Mackay, D.D., the well-known missionary of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in North Formosa, was in a very precarious condition of health at the beginning of the present month, from throat trouble, not being expected to live more than a fortnight. He spent several weeks in Hong-kong last winter, under treatment for this trouble. He is best known here, perhaps, as author of *From Far Formosa*, and is one of the old-fashioned school, having gone into his field single-handed and will leave the work well established, represented by upwards of 60 different congregations, schools, &c.

THE PLAGUE.

Monday.

During the 24 hours ended at noon on Saturday there were reported 21 fresh cases of plague (19 Chinese, 1 other Asiatic), with 19 deaths (18 Chinese, 1 other Asiatic).

The total number of cases up till noon on Saturday were 956 (920 Chinese, 23 other Asiatics, 13 Europeans), with 896 deaths (875 Chinese, 16 other Asiatics, 5 Europeans).

All the European patients now in hospital are doing well.

A rumour was lately prevalent that Mrs. Willoughby was not suffering from plague, but from typhoid fever. Enquiry has proved the former.

Mr. D. S. Gotla, the Parsee caretaker of the City Hall was removed to Kennedy Town Hospital yesterday morning suffering from plague. He was attended by Dr. Harston.

Tuesday.

During the 48 hours preceding noon on the 3rd inst. there were reported 57 fresh cases of plague (53 Chinese, and 4 other Asiatics) and 49 deaths (47 Chinese, 2 other Asiatics). The returns show that the cases are distributed over the Colony, and are not confined to any particular district. Two other children, one three years and the other nine months, of the Portuguese sanitary foreman who with two of his family was recently removed from his home in Battery Street, Yaumati, suffering from the disease, have succumbed. This makes in all four deaths in the one family.

Wednesday.

During the 24 hours ending at noon on the 4th inst. there were reported 24 fresh cases of plague (all Chinese) and 31 deaths (29 Chinese, 2 other Asiatics). All the European patients, we are glad to learn, are doing well. We are sorry to have to state, however, that Mr. D. S. Gotla, the Parsee caretaker of the City Hall, has succumbed to the disease.

Thursday.

During the 24 hours preceding noon yesterday there were reported 11 fresh cases of plague (9 Chinese, one other Asiatic, and one European), and 14 deaths (all Chinese).

The European case referred to is that of a baby, the child of Mrs. Varcoe, whose husband, we understand, is employed at the Naval Yard. Mr. and Mrs. Varcoe reside at Wild Dell, Wanchai, where the late Mr. Cumiskey (a plague victim) also lived. An Eurasian apprentice engineer named Baird, employed at the Cosmopolitan Docks, who was stopping for one night with some friends in a room at the China Expeditionary Force Base Post Office, Scandal Point, when he was taken with plague, makes the other non-Chinese case mentioned in the returns.

Friday.

During the 24 hours ending at noon yesterday there were reported 21 fresh cases of plague (19 Chinese, 2 other Asiatics), and 18 deaths (all Chinese). Mr. R. C. Vania, Parsee broker, living at 16, Gage Street, has contracted plague, and was on Wednesday afternoon admitted for treatment to the Parsee Club, 39, Elgin Street. He is 40 years of age. The doctor in attendance says that Mr. and Mrs. Varcoe's child is suffering from plague, and not scarlet fever, as has been rumoured in some quarters. The child, though slightly better, is too ill to be moved, and is being treated at its parents' house, 3, Wild Dell, Wanchai. All the other European patients still continue to progress.

The addition of 23 cases (22 Chinese, one other Asiatic) and 19 deaths (Chinese) at noon, brings the year's figures to 1,092 cases and 1,027 deaths.

The Life Saving Association of New York have awarded gold medals to Herbert George, able seaman of H.M.S. *Orlando*, and Edward Turner, leading seaman of H.M.S. *Centurion*, in recognition of their heroism at Taku on 22nd June, 1900. A Chinese junk, filled with British and American wounded, caught fire, and was drifting along apparently aimlessly, the occupants being in grave peril of an awful death. The sailors, at great personal risk, swam to the junk and boarded her. Their action helped to save many lives. The Secretary of the United States Navy Department has forwarded to each of the sailors a personal letter of thanks.

NEW RANGE FOR VOLUNTEERS.

SHOOTING FOR GOVERNOR'S SHIELD.

H.E. the Governor will open the new Volunteer Shooting Range at Causeway Bay at one o'clock to-day, when the first competition for the Governor's Shield will take place. About two weeks ago the Range was formally handed over to the Volunteers, those present at the ceremony being the Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police), Captain Sanders, Captain Pritchard, R.G.A. (Adjutant of the Volunteer Corps), Lieutenant Mossop, and Sergeant-Major Power. The Hon. Lieut.-Colonel Sir John Carrington, C.M.G. (Commandant of the Corps), was indisposed, and could not attend. These gentlemen inspected the Range and afterwards expressed their satisfaction with it. As at first constructed, the Range suffered from defects which the military authorities were not slow to point out. These defects have now been remedied and all danger to those engaged in the butts avoided, the rocks behind the butts, from which it was thought that bullets would ricochet, having been removed. But one defect remains, and that can scarcely be called a military defect: firing from the 200, 300, 400, and 500 yards ranges will be slightly upwards. Familiarity with the ranges, however, will doubtless in time help to overcome this drawback. Mr. Mossop, of the Public Works Department, who had charge of the work connected with the new Range, is to be congratulated on the successful completion of a difficult task. The approach to the Range is by a native track, which has been widened and improved, situated at the back of the Polo Club Pavilion to the right at the red flag and through the village. People using it are warned that, after firing has commenced at 200 yards, the side tracks are dangerous, and only the new road should be used.

The shield is to be shot for annually by teams of eight from each unit, and the name of the commanding officer of the winning unit and the names of the winning team are to be engraved upon the centre of the shield. After the next annual competition, the names are to be transferred to the uppermost shield on the left, while the centre shield is to be unscrewed and become the property of the commanding officer of the unit, another shield of the same size, engraved with the names of the new winners, being substituted. The Corps will present a small memento to each member of the winning team. Seven shots are to be fired at each of the 200, 300, 400, and 500 yards ranges (Bisley rules), the ammunition being supplied by the Corps on the ground.

The teams are to be divided in half, and the order of shooting, having been drawn by lot, is as follows:—

"A" Company 1st half v. "C" Company 1st half.

"D" Company 1st half v. Field Battery 1st half.

"E" Company 1st half v. "B" Company 1st half.

Band 1st half v. "A" Company 2nd half.

"C" Company 2nd half v. "D" Company 2nd half.

Field Battery 2nd half v. "E" Company 2nd half.

"B" Company 2nd half v. Band 2nd half.

NAMES OF THE COMPETING TEAMS.

Field Battery.—Lieut. J. Mossop; Sergeant W. Stewart; Gunner D. Stewart; Gunner D. Baldwin; Gunner R. Lapsley; Bombardier B. W. Grey; Gunner W. J. Rattey; Gunner T. D. Donaldson; Gunner R. Duncan; Gunner A. Alves; Captain D. Macdonald.

"A" Machine Gun Company.—Captain M. D. Sanders, A.D.C.; Lieut. F. Smyth; Co. Sergt.-Major G. P. Lammert; Sergeant E. G. Barrett; Gunner H. Hursthouse; Gunner R. C. Edwards; Gunner P. A. Cox; Gunner H. S. Holmes; Gunner I. G. Smith; Gunner C. H. Blason.

"B" Machine Gun Company.—Sergeant J. Marshall; Sergeant W. Hart; Corporal P. Penning; Gunner C. Cameron; Gunner A. Brown; Gunner J. R. Burgess; Bombardier E. Chapman; Gunner C. Ormsby; Bombardier G. Rashbrook; Sergeant T. Vincent.

"C" Machine Gun Company.—Bombardier H. Shoolbred; Sergeant D. Smilie; Gunner

A. Gidley; Bombardier J. W. Cloyn; Sergeant E. Sherwin; Coy. Sergt.-Major J. Rodgar; Gunner J. McCerquodale; Gunner E. R. Millar; Lieut. J. H. Underwood; Gunner C. W. Marshall.

"D" Infantry Company—Lieut. T. Skinner; Lieut. A. R. Griever; Corporal A. Ritchie; Private A. Mackenzie; Private H. Horley; Private A. Watson; Private B. Clarke; Private J. I. Andrew; Private T. Grimshaw; Private C. A. Bowley.

"E" Engineer Company—Lieut. J. W. Graham; Corporal T. Warwick; Sapper J. Parkes; Sapper J. McGlashan; Sapper J. Wilson; Sapper A. Hubbard; Sapper J. Lysaught; Sapper A. Pullen.

Band—Sergt. Dr. G. Mackie; Sergt. Dr. J. Baker; Corporal J. Toppin; Corporal C. E. Warren; Drummer A. A. Casar; Drummer F. Costar; Drummer P. Roza; Drummer C. Silas; Drummer H. A. Lammert; Drummer E. S. Ford.

Note.—Eight men will be selected from each of the above teams to shoot in the competition.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 3rd June.

THE POSITION OF MACAO.

It is some little time since any "notes" on Macao have been contributed in the *Daily Press*, and little wonder. A city of comparatively little present-day commercial importance, possessing no attractive harbour and no shipping, and of doubtful strategic value to its possessor, affords but scanty matter of interest for regular contributions from a press correspondent. As a land-mark in the history of foreign intercourse with China, however, it occupies a unique position. It is the very first European colony in the East. It was founded long before the great Powers of the present day found themselves in the humiliating circumstance of having to *kowtow* before the "Son of Heaven." And it has now for the period of three hundred and fifty years been tenaciously held as the great colonial diadem in the crown of Portugal, whose prowess by land and sea, directed first in overcoming the natural elements, then against the piratical hordes that terrorised the southern seaboard of China, and then the covetous eye of the Dutch, is so faithfully and so vividly recounted under the title of "Macao's Deeds of Arms" [by Mr. C.A. Montalto de Jesus in *The China Review*]. As a link in the chain of history between the West and the East, therefore, Macao can never fail in its charm, and as such it seldom fails to attract visitors to its shores who chance to be touring in the East.

OUR VISITORS.

Macao's news, as can readily be appreciated, can only relate to its municipal affairs, so to speak, pure and simple. Even these in a city of such small dimensions with a population not quite one-fifth of that of Hongkong, and is devoid of interest excepting to the people of the Colony. Occasionally a distinguished visitor is seen here, and now and again the representative in Hongkong of the British Sovereign comes over to Macao. Recently Sir Henry, accompanied by Lady and Miss Blake, were here. They made a short stay. Although of a purely private character, this and like visits can always be pleasantly associated with a perfect *entente cordiale* existing between the principals of two friendly nations. The Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., and family are now with us. Macao's hospitable shores, with its picturesque scenery and invigorating sea-breeze, ever offer to its visitors a cordial welcome.

OUR TWO GREAT QUESTIONS.

Two questions of some general interest are exciting attention among the electors of Macao. One is that of education and the other the nomination of a new board to replace the retiring members of direction of the Santa Casa da Misericordia.

At a meeting of the members of the Society for the Promotion of Education of the Macaenses, held on the 2nd inst., a new committee was elected. It is composed of Messrs. C. E. Assumpcao, P. J. da Luz, S. Noronha, F. F. Leitao, with Mr. P. Nolasco da Silva as president; Mr. F. X. M. de Sousa, secretary; and Mr. J. Ribeiro, treasurer. It is a

singular but nevertheless pleasing fact that, notwithstanding that the resources of the colony are meagre, the colonists have ever been alive to the necessity of providing ample means for instructing the young. To this end the above society has now been formed for some years.

EDUCATION IN MACAO.

While on the subject of education, it may be interesting to record that the *Real Senado* also maintains two schools—one for boys and the other for girls. Admission to these schools is free. It provides the schools out of municipal funds, with a competent staff of teachers. The Senate has had under consideration a fresh set of draft rules; they have been carefully drawn up, and are a decided improvement upon the old code. They practically set forth the entire curriculum of studies from the first (or infant class) to the highest (or sixth) standard. The subjects specified comprise Christian doctrine, Portuguese language, copy writing, arithmetic, the elements of Euclid, geography, history of Portugal, drawing, and gymnastics. It is a noteworthy feature that the use of the English "line upon line" copy-book is to be adopted for use in the schools. The text-books for the study of English are to be Jacob Bensabat's and the first and second "Royal Readers." It will be seen that the subjects taught under the direction of the *Camara* are much on the same lines with the subjects prescribed under the grant-in-aid code obtained in Hongkong, with the natural difference that in Macao the education is given in the Portuguese instead of in the English language. In the local code are embodied also a set of rules for the guidance of the teachers. It should be mentioned that the *Escola Central do Sexo Masculino* and the *Escola Central do Sexo Feminino*, as the municipal schools are called, are quite distinct from the Lyceu—maintained by and at the cost of the Government, for which the Senate contributes yearly \$4,000—or of the institution conducted by the Jesuit Fathers, and known as the *Collegio de San José*. With reference to the Lyceu it may be mentioned in passing that popular feeling is to abolish it altogether, and the saving effected by its abolition be appropriated towards the improvement of the municipal schools. The reasons urged for such a sweeping measure being that it has not justified its existence by any good results. The number of pupils attending the lyceum during the last school year was only sixteen. The teaching of English, French and German is alleged to be purely theoretical, with no prospective practical value. Objection is also entertained against the system of drawing upon the public service for officers to act as professional masters; and lastly, class-hours fixed to suit the convenience of the masters appear to be wholly unsuited to the students themselves.

A BOARD ELECTION.

The question of the election of the new board of management of the Santa Casa da Misericordia has imparted to it on the present occasion an element of more than ordinary interest. It has ever been so whenever the office of Provedor, who really represents the fountain-head of the executive as well as the administrative functions of the corporation, has been contested. Shortly, the members will be called to ballot for the new board, and it is rumoured that one party is agitating for the supersession of the present Provedor, Mr. P. Nolasco da Silva, in favour of its own nominee. Without in any way suggesting even the faintest idea of disparagement towards the proposed Provedor, it is to be regretted if his party should succeed in removing the present incumbent from office. Synchronously with the appointment of Mr. Nolasco da Silva the finances of the institution have witnessed an improvement quite unparalleled in the whole history of its long existence. Mr. Silva enjoys the reputation of being a level-headed man of business. His practical acquaintance with the system of successful financing prevailing in the neighbouring colony seconded by the funds with which the Society's coffers have been timely enriched by the lottery, has been the means to place the Society in a position to extend its hand of succour in cases of need and destitution now practically for all time. His opponent has not the means, and his calling does not afford him the opportunity of

acquiring the vast knowledge and experience already possessed by Mr. Nolasco, who in addition is more conversant with the daily needs, habits and customs of the people for whom the Society was first called into existence in 1596. The return last week of Mr. A. J. Basto, barrister, from India and Portugal, once again places the presidency of the corporation into this gentleman's trusty hands.

In a future contribution, I hope to furnish your readers with a more detailed account of the good work the Society has been doing in such a quiet, unostentatious way in a colony where the work of disinterested individuals, voluntarily performed, have not until now been adequately acknowledged in public print.

COLONIAL LIFE IN FORMOSA.

[FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

Taiwan, Formosa, 25th May.

RAILWAYS IN FORMOSA.

Formosan affairs are experimental in many ways, but they have already aimed a blow at the notion common in China that the natives, accustomed to cheap and abundant water transportation, and having no regard for time, would not travel by rail. That has been one of the stock arguments against railroad construction here as well as in China. It would be impossible for rails to compete with waterways, all opponents have agreed, either for passengers or freight. Since the railway in North China has not had a fair chance to show what it can do, and since the line from Shanghai to Wosung is too short to prove anything, it has remained for the Japanese to explode the first bomb under the mass of popular prejudice against railroads. There is in operation a line of nearly 30 miles between this place and Takow, being the southern section of the road to be laid the length of the island. In other days sailing boats or junks were used for the trip, at 40 cents one way or 60 cents for a passage and return. Trips were made according to the wind and sea, which have the reputation of being quite as whimsical here as on any coast. No one could count on when a boat would start, how long it would take on the way, or what the delays might be at the other end. There were rarely more than three or four passengers on a trip, and apparently it did not concern them at all whether it occupied two days or two weeks. As Takow is the centre of a sugar district, someone thought that it might pay to run a steam-launch there, and the venture was made. Fare by this line became 60 cents for single passage and 80 cents to go and return. Wind and sea still had to be consulted, but when it was possible to go, the round trip never lasted more than two days, and it was usually accomplished in one. The average number of passengers increased to about 4, all of whom went by launch, forcing the original line out of business. By rail the fare is 50 cents each way. At least 300 passengers make the trip daily. No one thinks now of going to Takow by launch, and the promoter of that enterprise has had to turn his attention to something else. It is impossible that all who make the trip by rail are sugar estate owners or dealers in that commodity. So many go for the sake of the ride, to extend their horizon and see the world, as to strengthen the supposition that in a former existence the beings inhabited by Chinese souls must have been great travellers, and that the railroad, instead of being a modern invention, may be classed as a revival of a commercial art that was lost. Since Formosa is Japanese, and on that account in all respects *non grata* to the Chinese, there is no telling how large might be the travel were the sovereignty of the islands to be restored to the Son of Heaven.

Probably other bombs must be fired before the obstacles to railroad improvement can be removed on the mainland. The Soochow native bound for Shanghai will be content to spend 15 hours in a junk for the trip of 80 miles and to pay 30 cents for it until a railroad whisks him over that distance in two or three hours at two or three times the fare. In Amoy a coolie has just returned from a six weeks' visit to his mother, 200 miles up country.

He had one dollar when he started and returns with half of it, having dissipated 10 cents at his ancestral home, besides paying 40 cents to various boatmen to carry him. It may require a special bomb to convince him that if there were a railroad for travel instead of junks he might have done better than he has by saving time at a cost of perhaps \$12 for fares. The women of Swatow are as ambitious to be prolific as are their small-footed sisters in other parts. Until they can be assured that a railroad will not disturb their fertility, they will control public and official opinion against such an innovation in that country. While Shanghai may now claim to have outgrown this form of superstition, reminders of the Fengshui influences, which tore up the railroad built there a little more than 20 years ago, are visible in Formosa. The outfit for that road was dumped on this coast and lay here untouched for years, until the Japanese dug it out from the sands that were entombing it and sold for junk what they could not use for sidings on the Takow line.

THE PLAGUE.

Besides doing what it can to get ahead of the mother country, in a railroad, Formosa has of late years made strides with bubonic plague that promise to distinguish it. Report says that the plague came from Amoy. Whatever its origin, it found a receptive soil. A residence of a few years has made it feel as much at home as if it properly belonged here. This year's epidemic started early in the winter and still flourishes. The number of deaths reported reaches several hundred, but that is not a reliable mortality index. Few Chinese families will let the authorities know when the plague visits them. Sanitary inspection ferrets out cases, and they come to official notice otherwise, but how many victims there may be of whom no one in authority hears cannot be estimated. Funerals do not help to answer this question, for if a coffin may not be taken away unseen at night and encased in the usual cement covering in a Chinese graveyard, it is always possible to dig a hole under the floor of a residence and deposit it there. Cases have been discovered in which that had been done. About 7,000 persons have undergone inoculation with the plague serum, but as that is only 10 per cent. of the city's population, the process has not checked appreciably the plague. It is with the Chinese here as in their own country, in matters of this kind. They had rather suffer with a disease and die with it than to let it come to official notice. Occasionally one of them falls in the street and lands in the plague hospital, but he has such a time getting there that those who witness the operation may well dread having to submit to it themselves, and they feel quite justified in doing all they can to avoid it. A man fell the other night in one of the crowded districts. It happened to be where he was unknown and no one came forward to help him. A Japanese policeman arrived in a few minutes and began to ask all sorts of questions, which the sufferer could not understand and which he was in no condition to answer even if he had known what was wanted. Evidently the officer himself did not know what to do, and he started for the police station for a copy of the regulations in order that he might look up the rule on how to act when stumped. Meanwhile the agonies of the man had excited the neighbourhood, and had drawn a crowd who made a great noise and did nothing for the sufferer. By the time the officer returned with the regulations, the man was bordering on collapse. The officer, heedless of the man's condition, insisted on conducting an examination on the spot, according to his understanding of the rules. When at last the man was lugged off to the hospital, he might almost as well have been taken in a coffin, for owing to the exposure and attendant confusion and distractions to which he had been subjected, he was nearly ready for the undertaker. By morning no preparation on his part remained uncompleted.

Dr. Tsukiyama, who has charge of the work in connection with the treatment of plague, expects to be able to make reports upon it which will add materially to the sum of observations so far collected. He does not feel prepared at this time to say that he can add much of value to medical science, but contents himself with the modest hope that this field may

furnish data that will not be unappreciated in lands that plague visits.

FORMOSA JOURNALISM.

Wherever the modern Japanese goes he starts a paper. Formosa has been generously blessed in this respect. This community enjoys the favour of two dailies. They are well worth the subscription price to those who wish to keep track of affairs in the small but lively world for which they cater. According to accepted notions, indeed, it is not only a privilege but also a duty to subscribe. Those residents who prefer to see the conduct of their neighbours rather than their own conduct discussed in print lose nothing by subscribing several times over. Reminders to that effect not unfrequently enliven the news columns. A certain official learns to his surprise and alarm that conduct on his part has been observed not altogether exemplary in a man whose obligations should hold another him in course. The paper is most reluctant to deal in scandal, but the morals of the community must be protected, and the editor is seriously considering whether that end may not best be served by giving publicity to this breach. All the readers who favour a high moral standard, and who feel certain that this hint is not thrown at themselves, hope that the editor's doubts may resolve into a determination to cleanse the community and get rid of the stain upon it in the way he suggests. Such readers thereupon watch each succeeding issue of the paper closely for the laundering to begin. It rarely happens that more than one hint is needed, and the subsequent silence of the paper upon the subject is commonly construed as evidence that the editor has received pledges of reform from the person implicated, promises of future exceptional behaviour and orders to send the paper regularly to various friends of the reformed one.

THE PRESS AND THE GEISHA.

If a geisha need not be above reproach, she at least cannot afford to betray preferences. Her work charms because of the impartiality with which she serves those who engage her talents in music and the dance. A suspicion that her affections may have become engaged puts her out of the running. The phrase "I will show you a faithful geisha when you bring me a square egg" is a Japanese way of paying tribute to the heart-free and ethereal qualities of those who follow that profession. The local paper is sure of multiplying its circulation for all issues in which it prints coupons that enable readers to convey their opinions regarding the appearance, voice, dancing or other attractive qualities of these dainty entertainers. On the other hand, when symptoms of fidelity appear in a geisha and the paper notes them, with an intimation that it may become its painful duty to print names and circumstances, the paragraph usually induces assurances that ways will be mended and that the profession will be spared the discredit that threatened it. With two censors vigilantly at work in one small town, the growing reputation of Taiwan as a centre of refined morals may be hoped perhaps to extend to the entire colony, and in time to apply to the home land, where nature's toys and pictures are loveliest, and which missionaries say sadly needs leavening.

The *Foochow Echo* of the 18th ult. has the two following items:—Late news from Fuhning and the neighbourhood is far from satisfactory. There is threatening a persecution of the native Christians. Missionaries on the spot are apprehensive of trouble, but the situation is not thought very seriously of by others at a distance. In the meantime those who are looked upon as likely to create trouble are said to declare themselves to be Boxers, and this is the unpleasant part of the news as it reaches us.—The trouble last year which arose out of the tea from the Panyong and Paklum districts being conveyed from Santu to Foochow by steamer, instead of by coolies overland, has recommenced. The sea passage is both cheaper and quicker and the packages and their contents are less liable to damage from wet weather, and so the owners prefer it; but the coolies can only see that they have a prescriptive right to the carriage of the produce, and regardless of all other considerations are fighting for it.

PEKING.

Peking, 22nd May.

DEPARTURE OF AMERICAN TROOPS.

This morning the infantry of the American contingent entrained for the coast *en route* to the Philippines. A very large number of officers, chiefly British and Japanese, assembled to wish their comrades good-bye. The Germans were conspicuous by their absence. On the signal being given to start, a splendid Japanese band struck up "Auld Lang Syne." A British band also played, and to complete the jubilation the American band joined in. With three bands simultaneously playing different tunes, and the soldiers answering with deafening cheers, the air was rent with tumultuous noises as the train moved off. General Chaffee, Staff, and the Officers of the contingent followed by the 10.20 train. The Field Marshal, nearly all the Generals and Officers of the British force, several Japanese, and a representative of one or two other forces, all turned out to honour the departing General. A strong British guard lined the platform. General Chaffee was agreeably surprised at this unexpected mark of esteem, and remarked how pleased he was to see such a splendid send-off given to his men in the morning. Mr. and Mrs. Squires, Mr. Cheshire, Mr. and Mrs. Williams of the American Legation, Sir Robert Hart, and a few other civilians joined in the farewells. The presence of the ladies was a distinct feature, and graced the otherwise military scene. The spontaneous genuineness of the hearty cheers indexed the popularity of the U.S. contingent. The presence of the American troops in Peking marked a new beginning in American politics, and also, let us hope, a new era in the history of the Anglo-Saxons.

EVACUATION?

Everyone is now on the tiptoe of expectation. If only the Chinese were wise they would see Peking evacuated. The Russians went away early. They had their own axe to grind. The Americans have now left. The French have already sent away several companies and removed their headquarters. Some British detachments have gone, and two regiments of Germans are leaving soon. Several districts are being handed over to the Chinese authorities, and everything points to a transition. Two things delay the speedy completion of the arrangements. One is that the Chinese are parrying in the fulfilment of Articles 2 and 10 of the Protocol. The other is that the Boxers are again assuming the aggressive in the south of the Province.—*N.-C. Daily News.*

NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items are from the *P. & T. Times* of the 25th ult.:

It is reported that the French intend handing over the Military College to the Chinese at an early date.

Scouts sent out from Peking report that the nearest Chinese camp is at Tatungfu, where there are about 30,000 with some 30 guns.

The estimates made by the Chinese for the restoration of the Imperial Palaces is about 2.0 million taels, and 100 million for extra expenses.

A former Governor of Chihli, named Ho, and Yuan Shi-kai have been nominated as military secretaries at Peking when the Allies have vacated.

A number of prominent officials have been returning to Peking from Hsian, but this cannot be accepted as evidence of the Court's intentions, as they have all come on some pressing business.

The Russians have issued a notification in Manchuria ordering the farmers to resume their work, and threatening condign punishment to either Russian or Chinese murdering or plundering the people.

The *Je Je* states that there is a great contrast between the general condition of affairs at Paotingfu and Tientsin. At the former place there has been little or no revival of trade, and the natives are always fighting against the native Christians or *vice versa*.

The *Chih Pao* states that a tablet has been found in Peking inscribed with sensational prophecies and warnings such as are most calculated to excite the imagination of the ignorant people who are always more ready to

listen to "spirits" than men. They refrain from translating the inscription, as they do not desire to assist in the circulation of the rubbish.

The body of a soldier was discovered floating in the river early yesterday morning by the Chinese police, who at once hailed two German soldiers passing, who assisted in landing the body, when it was found to be that of one of their countrymen. The deceased had a wound in the back of his head, but we have not heard whether the German authorities suspect foul play. The body is identified as that of Pioneer Edolf Hildebrand of the German Telegraph Company, who appears to have been missing since about 9 p.m. on Sunday evening last, when he was last seen by his comrades.

Three complete batteries of new Krupp guns, fifteen-pounders, with 4,500 rounds of ammunition and 700 or 800 rounds of g.f. ammunition, were discovered neatly buried in a small Chinese house at Kaiping since the British force has been stationed there, and were yesterday brought down to Sinho, where they are being shipped pending orders from home. The guns were discovered through the agency of an Indian Mussulman trooper who had become friendly with a Chinese Mussulman who divulged the secret, in spite of a bribe of \$20,000 offered by a local official to hold his tongue. The guns (eighteen in all) are quite new, and in perfect order, with the exception of the breech-blocks. The guns were stowed away in an astonishingly small space under a mud floor, and probably there are many other places in which guns or ammunition may be similarly hidden.

H.B.M.'S CONSULS IN JAPAN.

The London Gazette, under date Foreign Office, 1st April, notifies that the King has been graciously pleased to appoint:—

John Carey Hall, Esq., to be His Majesty's Consul for the Consular District of Kobe, comprising the Prefectures of Toyama, Ishigawa, Fukui, Shiga, Miye, Nara, Wakayama, Hyogo, Tottori, Okayama, Shimane, Kagawa, Tokushima, Kochi and Ehime, and the cities of Osaka and Kyoto, to reside at Kobe.

Joseph Henry Longford, Esq., to be His Majesty's Consul for the Consular District of Nagasaki, comprising the Prefectures of Saga, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Miyazaki, Kagoshima, and Okinawa (Ioo Choo Islands) to reside at Nagasaki.

Frank William Walter Playfair, Esq., to be His Majesty's Consul for the Consular District of Shimonoseki, comprising the Prefectures of Yamaguchi, Hiroshima, Fukuoka and Oita, to reside at Shimonoseki.

Alfred Ernest Wileman, Esq., to be His Majesty's Vice-Consul for the Consular District of Hakodate, comprising the whole of Hokkaido (Yesso), the Kurile Islands, and the Prefectures of Awomori, Iwate, and Akita, to reside at Hakodate.

Arthur Morison Chalmers, Esq., to be His Majesty's Vice-Consul for the Consular District of Hyogo and Osaka, to reside at Kobe.

THE MANILA COMMISSARY SCANDALS.

The Manila Times, in commenting upon the recent Commissary Scandals, and the convictions which followed, in its issue of the 25th ult. remarks:—There is considerable comment on the disparity of the sentences of Capt. Barrows and Lieut. Boyer, the former receiving five years while the latter is given only one. Surprise is occasioned from the fact that they were both implicated in practically the same case, and that, if either, Boyer was the instigator. A review of the cases, however, will reveal that Captain Barrows had five charges against him, one of which was embezzlement, while the single charge against Boyer was not of such a grave nature. This ought to explain the disparity, in spite of the fact that Barrows is furious at what he considers a rank injustice, and vows that he will wreak vengeance on Boyer "for getting him into this row."

These two cases, it will be seen, have been confirmed and ordered to be executed by the Department Commander, evidently without any reference to higher authorities.

This bears out what we have been saying. Article 104 of the Articles of War, which has been in vogue for over one hundred years, says

that "the sentence of no court-martial shall be carried into execution until the same shall have been approved by the officer commanding the court, or by the officer commanding for the time being." The only modification of this article that has been made during the past century has been the amendment, approved by an Act of 27th July, 1892, of "until the proceedings shall have been approved" to read "until the same shall have been approved." (This with reference to the sentence.) Article 106 modifies this by saying, "In time of peace no sentence of a court-martial directing the dismissal of an officer shall be carried into execution until it shall have been confirmed by the President." The confirmation of these sentences, therefore, by the Department Commander has confirmed the argument that state of war exists, or, in other words, that this is not a time of peace. As a matter of fact the War Department has ruled, very recently, in connection with these cases, that the Philippine Islands, during the month of May, 1901, are in a state of war. This ought to clear up all doubt or discussion with regard to the question which has been brought out in the debate during the recent trials. Indeed, no other decision could fitly be made, since, as we have already stated in these columns, if a state of war does not exist, or if a ruling is made that a state of war does not exist, it is equivalent to placing a question mark upon every sentence that has been confirmed for a violation of the laws of war—and they are many.

It is interesting to note that the Secretary of War, in the case of Captain Read, directs that the sentence be confirmed and ordered to be executed. It is well known that Capt. Read was tried by a court-martial convened by a separate brigade, which exists under special provisions. Exactly why the Secretary of War should be the final authority in this case we are unable to state at the present time. There is no doubt this point will come out at a latter date when official matters have taken their proper course.

THE SEOUL-FUSAN RAILWAY.

The Seoul-Fusan Railway Company received the formal grant for the construction of the railway on the 15th ult., when the first course of the subscription for its shares was finished. As the company is to begin the construction works in a few days when the matters connected with the capital are finished and the inaugural general meeting has been held, we think it proper to give here a short description of the route of the railway. Between Seoul and Fusan, which are the termini of the railway, it touches many important places. Starting from Seoul, after an interval of 25 miles, the route passes Suwon, an historical place in the China-Japan war. The Chiksan, the famous gold mine worked by Baron Shibusawa and Mr. Soichiro Asano, lies at a distance of 103 miles from Seoul along the railway. At Wonsan, next to Chiksan, the railway branches to Kangkyong. This place is notable for the fact that it reaches the river communication from Gunsan, an open port. The railway company will carry the materials for the railway construction to Kangkyong via Gunsan. The branch line is not formally mentioned in the memorandum concluded between the Korean and our Governments in connexion with the railway. But in view of the fact that the branch line is a *raison d'être* of the railway, there is no possibility of its being done away with even after the whole railway is constructed. As far as Wonsan the route is rather easy, but beyond that place the railway enters the most hilly portion of the peninsula, where the route crosses the mountain range of Chuphungnyong. Just before the railway goes among the mountains, it touches at Keumsan which, as well as Pyongreong, also a place where the railway touches, are the centres of the ginseng productions. At a point 215 miles from Seoul, the route comes to Taiku, which is a pretty city with a population of over ten thousand. From this place the railway goes straight to Fusan after covering a distance of 287 miles altogether. When the railway is completed, the traffic will be made by train running 27 miles per hour, so that the whole length will be done in 10 or 12 hours.—*Japan Times*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

PUBLIC APATHY ON PUBLIC QUESTIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
31st May.

SIR,—Since writing my first letter, re carrying Plague Clothing on public ferries—which I am thankful to believe helped to stir up some of our self-satisfied "Tin Gods"—I have not again encroached on your space, but I would now beg leave to draw attention to one or two points on which no member of that "nervous and foolish body," the Public, has touched.

Nothing is more astonishing in this Colony than the apathy displayed by the average man one meets in business or society toward questions—such as those asked by "Inquirer"—which affect the existence of all of us, even the "Tin Gods"!

I have repeatedly said to men of my acquaintance, "Why do you, as men whose interests lie in this Colony and whose lives will be passed here, put up with so and so: why not make a stand, and get it remedied?"

The answer invariably is "Oh well, you know I meet old So and So in business constantly, and I can't go against him: he would soon get back on me!" Or, "So and So is a Director of our Company, and I dare not raise any complaint against anything he is concerned in." Or, perhaps merely, "Well, you see, I meet So and So at the Club and frequently at the same houses at dinner and it would be so unpleasant, etc., etc."

The Colony is cursed with monopoly in its worst form. Half the men in it are afraid to open their mouths because of meeting with unpleasantness or pressure or hostility of some kind afterwards! To one only eighteen months out from England and with—Heaven send my "relief"—only another year or two to stay, the thing is pitiable and degrading to witness.

As one who has already lost one European employé from Plague and having another now down with it, I can assure "Inquirer" that most of his surmises are correct, and there are other Plague scandals which he has not touched upon.

The rottenness of the present system affects every department of public life in the Colony and it can only be sifted out bit by bit. If we are to appeal to the Home Government, let us do it thoroughly, with a full and complete statement.

"To be going on with" here are two minor items, very unimportant perhaps in the eyes of the "Tin Gods," but in no other country that pretends to be civilised could you see the like.

1.—The refuse of the city is taken in junks day by day into the beautiful bays of this land-locked harbour and dumped into the water, where it floats, in the form of rotten fruit skins, straw, filthy rags, old brooms and scraps of clothing, and worse things, still backwards and forwards from the Lymoon Pass to the Cap-sui-moon.

Bathing parties this year may like to know that it is now impossible to bathe in any of the bays N.W. of Stonecutters, and indeed hardly anywhere within five miles of the city central. I frequently sail into these bays, and each one has its junk pouring a continuous stream of unnameable filth into the water, which in those parts now resembles the Sargasso Sea—or the Fleet Ditch!

All this, no doubt, because it does not suit somebody's "game" to build a destructor or dispose of the muck as any fifth-rate town or borough in England does. Apart from the beastliness of it, and the disgrace to an English Colony, will the "Tin Gods" swear that there are no Plague germs among these thousands of tons of filth that are poured into the harbour?

2.—Owing to the fact that reliable and competent men are not employed to steer the Ferry boats (most of us could name the reason) collisions and other breakdowns are so frequent that two out of the four "double-enders" are always laid up. The incompetent coolies who steer these boats lose their heads directly any danger occurs: at other times they indulge in day-dreams and "canna mind their wheel."

The result of the breakdowns is that a small launch is always running one out of three. Now at the Hongkong pier it is almost impossible for Europeans to land from a small launch at all since the alterations to the pier. By the 7.30 launch (small) recently, I and my wife crossed to dine in Hongkong. After striking the pier in several places and backing out as many times, in the usual fashion, we finally drew up at the lower steps, where space about 14 yards wide is provided for every one to scramble ashore in. We stood on one side to allow the crowds of sacred Chinese to get off—including a number of dock coolies from plague-stricken Yaumati—and then meekly followed up the steps, but were nearly swept off our feet and into the water by a downward rush to board the boat. At the top of the steps stood a seven-foot European policeman calmly watching the efforts of the two streams of passengers to embark and disembark at the same moment, and making not the faintest effort to regulate the traffic! As I told you in my last letter, I saw the coolies carrying a plague basket off the ferryboat, shove an English child nearly into the water, and the constable looked on "with majesty unmoved"!

But, in the language of the good old socialist agitator at home, "Yah, 'oo pays yer yer wages?" we do at least expect to see the ordinary traffic regulations carried out by the persons paid to do it.

Result, a shirt front besmirched with coal-dust and (probably) plague germs; silk dress ditto. Very small items, of course, but, I maintain, typical of the state of things throughout this Colony. Incompetence, neglect to enforce regulations, or common decency, and utter lack of supervision.—Yours, etc.,

CIVILISATION.

THE PLAGUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

3rd June.

SIR,—Reviewing the past, contemplating the present, and forecasting the future state of affairs with regard to the plague which has been prevalent every year in this Colony since 1894, and the sanitary measures adopted hitherto without much effect, I beg to set forth certain suggestions to the Government and the general public for their favourable consideration; and these suggestions are merely drafts of my own opinion, which leave ample room for improvements and alteration.

This epidemic so far is a problem without a solution; even the highest class of medical professors are only beating about the bush to search for its proper remedy, and by lingering on in this manner myriads of lives have succumbed to the epidemic and myriads yet must fall victims in the time to come. Without arriving at the key of the cure, let us introduce the best means of prevention.

The preventive measures which I am about to suggest are very simple. If the Government people and general public will co-act, I am positive that the number of cases will be reduced to quite a minimum.

The British Government, as is manifest to the whole universe, is the most liberal towards her own subjects: there is very little or no doubt that she will not hesitate to meet the expenses to be paid for the general benefit of her colonial inhabitants, and for such requirements as are absolutely necessary for their well-being.

The Colony has flourished with rapidity through the Chinese coming from all parts of China. Although from a general point of view they are not considered the most important portion of the population of this Colony, but by majority and reality they are. Since they are, there ought to be more consideration shown them as has not been heretofore.

It should be the duty of every individual residing in this Colony to endeavour to sponge out the germs of the plague. Out of this population there are only two divisions of men, the Government and the general public; and the duties of these divisions are enumerated as under:

The Duties of the Government (and the Sanitary Board).

1. That a committee of a wide scope should be at once elected to consider the drainage system and the building ordinance.

2. That the Chinese should be granted the privilege to convey the sick and the dead to their native places at their option, as according to their religion it causes them to commit a serious sin to leave the remains of their parents in a foreign land without removing them to their ancestral home. Since they have this idea, they will contrive the best means they can to smuggle the corpses away in a most abominable fashion, and by so doing it is certainly very pernicious to the public health. The Government should at once wire home for this permission without a moment's hesitation.

3. That the poor people should be roughly compensated for the articles destroyed on account of plague by the Government or by public subscription.

4. That an efficient number of doctors should be employed by the Government, whose sole duties are to go round so many hours daily to examine the drainage of every locality and the rubbish at every corner of the street and in every house to see if there are plague germs about before they have a chance to develop.

5. That officers should be engaged to kill rats in the best way possible, as it is generally the case that when a plague-stricken rat is found within a house cases of plague to human beings follow.

6. That officers should be employed to see that the drains of every house are kept clean, and that the iron grating at the entrance of every drain is fastened in such a manner as will prevent the rats from entering.

7. In a district declared infected by plague, no removal from one house to another should be allowed unless under the supervision of a Sanitary Board officer, whose duty it is to see that the furniture is disinfected, as it is quite positive that no person would remove unless there is something wrong with the house.

8. That qualified men should be employed to distinguish plague from other sicknesses, and not as is generally the case now—unwell people being dragged to the hospital merely on suspicion. Even in true cases of plague, the sufferer's relatives should be allowed to accompany the patient to the hospital and attend to his wants. The patients now dread to enter the hospital owing to the death average being too high, and this shows the lack of care by the hospital attendants.

9. That anyone suffering from plague or other infectious disease should be allowed to remain in the same house with a few attendants for treatment by a European doctor, providing that the other inmates of the same house will leave the premises at once. At present the Chinese have an idea that to go to the hospital means death, and the fear alone is enough to kill them.

10. That a locomotive with disinfectants and boiling water should go through the streets by turns daily, and that the authorities should insist upon the inmates of every house having their wooden beddings and mats thoroughly washed. This will do away with all the bugs and lice which are likely to spread the disease.

11. During the prevalence of plague, public houses of assembly, such as show-rooms and theatres, should be closed, or have the number of their frequenters limited.

The Duties of the General Public.

1. Have all the furniture shifted from its position once a month for the purpose of floor cleaning and disinfecting. This specially applies to Chinese houses and foreigners' servants' quarters.

2. Furnish every house with a rat-trap or keep a cat for the purpose of extinguishing rats; as the rats are the most dangerous agents which spread the epidemic. Once a dead rat is found in the house, measures must be taken at once to disinfect the house and the occupants must leave the premises for a few days.

3. Wash the drains with a little disinfectant daily with plenty of water, have all useless odds and ends removed from the house. The contention of some Chinese is that the disinfectants kill the rats and cause the plague; but it is not so. If one uses the same quantity of disinfectants daily all the year round one will find the rats alive and kicking during the cold months when there is no plague, and they only die during the plague season.

4. As a prevention from serious illness one should consult a doctor at once when he feels out of sorts; and when the doctor declares that

he has got the plague he should at once go to the hospital for treatment and should not feel downhearted, as courage and strength will very often bring about recovery. Plague develops surprisingly quick, and it should be treated before it becomes critical or is too late.

In conclusion, I am of opinion that if the Government (and the Sanitary Board) will harmoniously work together with the general public, mutually assisting each other with energy and effort, matters will be simplified. At the present moment the Chinese are murmuring that the laws of the Government with regard to plague are too biased and severe.

SEER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

3rd June.

SIR,—On Wednesday, 25th May, you kindly published some queries I put to yourself and your readers.

To-day (Monday) "Civilisation" assures me that most of my surmises are correct, and there are other plague scandals I have not touched upon: I should be obliged indeed if "Civilisation" will tell your readers and myself what these other scandals are, for I take it that such serious queries as put in your issue of the 25th of May would have been refuted if it were possible, even by the deaf and dumb tin gods, were it only for the sake of their jobs. The whole history of the medical care taken, by the deputies of H.M. King Edward VII, of his British subjects when stricken with the plague will be pretty reading for His Majesty and others interested.—Yours, etc.,

INQUIRER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

3rd June.

SIR,—H.E. the Governor recently suggested that plague patients might be treated at their own homes, but the Sanitary Board disapproved of the idea. I would, therefore, be interested to know why it is that Mr. Collins, 8, Caine Road, has been allowed to be treated at his home. If such is possible, under what conditions can one obtain this privilege? Also, not long ago, Inspector Reidie of the Sanitary Board, who had contracted plague, was treated at the Government Civil Hospital instead of being sent to the Kennedy Town Plague Hospital?

May I ask whether anyone else who is unfortunate enough to be attacked by the disease can be treated at the Government Civil Hospital instead of having to go to the undesirable place at Kennedy Town?

I would be obliged if some of your readers, or perhaps a member of the Sanitary Board, would kindly satisfy my inquisitiveness.—Yours, etc.,

FAIRPLAY.

[A Sanitary Board bye law provides that a patient can be treated in his own home—if he be isolated and no one else but the nurse occupies the building.—Ed. D.P.]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

4th June.

SIR,—Referring to your issue of yesterday, in which it is stated that 18 dead bodies were found dumped in the streets, it reminds me to call again the attention of the Government to the nuisance still going on in Old Bailey Street. It the side gate of the Central Police Station. I have also described how the corpses have been dealt with by the police. Mr. May's attention has been called to this abominable practice (which he himself classified as being against the law of the colony), and yet he still allows it to pass unnoticed!

At the meeting of the Sanitary Board held on the 16th ultimo, Mr. May, speaking on the dumping of dead bodies, said—"There was one thing, it was against the law of the colony to put a dead body at the door of a convent or any where in the public streets; and at the present time there were a number of their gallant defenders, goodness knows how many police, to prevent that being done."

Why then does Mr. May allow dead bodies being brought to the Old Bailey, to lie exposed to the public at the side gate of the Central Station? Why are they not carried inside the police compound for their particular purpose, if such it may be termed? Why are they left outside for hours and sometimes uncovered and

exposed to public sight? Mr. May must be stultifying himself in not putting into practice what he said in the Sanitary meeting.

Is it for the purpose of identification that the bodies are brought at that particular gate? Cannot identification be made at the very spot where they were found, and have them removed at once to the mortuary? What is the mortuary built for? Why should this unnecessary and disgusting procession of dead-boxes be allowed to go to and fro in the centre of the town? Because, perhaps, Mr. May wishes the public to be familiar with the sight and be free from panic. Very nice indeed!

In the last sentence of Mr. May's statement, quoted above, he spoke of "how many police to prevent that being done." I would answer in the case of Old Bailey—only one—European, of course—with strict orders to disallow dead bodies being placed at the gate, and stop the procession of dead-boxes.

Anyhow, somebody must be responsible for this objectionable practice of bringing corpses into the centre of the town when there is a mortuary to receive them.

The insertion of the above will greatly oblige.—Yours, etc.,

VOX POPULI.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
4th June.

SIR,—Amongst the plague scandals, "Inquirer" may like to know that there is nothing more disgusting than the treatment of Chinese deaths. When a death occurs, no matter from what cause, if it is reported to the police, the corpse is removed to the Kennedy mortuary; if reported to the Registrar-General, an inspector of nuisances, whose scientific knowledge may be a little better than that of a common coolie, is sent by the Sanitary Board to examine the corpse before it is allowed to be confined and taken out of the premises. In this way it is generally detained in the house for a whole day, and sometimes overnight, if, in the opinion of the inspector, the case is suspicious, before it can be buried. In hot weather like this, changes may have taken place in the body before the sanitary emissary can find time to visit it. I am sure the result of such delay is not very pleasant. The moment a report is received the M. O. H., or some one qualified to act for him, should go at once and decide the case on the spot.—Yours, etc.,

BETTER CIVILISATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
5th June.

SIR,—At the present moment, as a community, we are in sore straits, but it is no use behaving like a lot of hysterical neurotic women. It seems to me that something closely akin to a "carnival of panic"—to slightly alter Baron Milner's now famous phrase—reigns rampant in our midst. With a population several tens of thousands above that of 1894, we have considerably fewer deaths from plague, at a corresponding period of the year now, than then. Anyone who was in the Colony at that unforgettable time, and saw what was going on daily when matters were worst, must own that Chinese houses are much cleaner now than then: this fact is evidenced by the far fewer cartloads of filth disgorged from native tenements during the present year. Where is the good or the need of writing letters that are fuller of delusive rhetoric than of accurate fact? The Sanitary Board, in the opinion of not a few, is toiling manfully with its herculean task. The Augean stables—and they were not used by Chinese—were not cleaned in a day. Plague comes to stay, and cannot be incessantly rooted up. It will certainly remain with us until such times as the Chinese can be forced to lead a cleaner and more sanitary existence. We must not forget that the disease is endemic in Yunnan. If we were as negligent as some quaking critics aver, our state would grow worse from year to year. Cold statistics, however—vide Dr. Clark's able report for 1900—prove incontrovertibly that this is not so.

What, however, does seem a most astounding thing is that the P.C.M.O.—I mean the officer holding the substantive appointment, not the acting man—should be absent from his post on extended leave at such a critical time. If I remember rightly, Dr. Atkinson was also away on leave in 1894, when Dr. Lowson deservedly

earned his spurs and possibly an unmerited inheritance of sickness from overwork—who shall say?—Yours, etc.,

BRIDGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

6th June.

SIR,—Much has been said and written about plague, but, so far, no one has ever enough courage to say definitely how this dreadful disease originated.

Prior to 1890, we had no plague—not even the troublesome mosquitoes—and we could sleep anywhere in the house without the necessity of being shut up in a curtain; but since the introduction of the "improved" drainage system these mosquitoes have not only become annoying at night, but also come out and attack people in the day-time. The sinking wells of our "improved" drains are in fact the breeding-places of these insects, and heaven knows if these holes do not also breed plague. Rats live in the drains, and they are the first to contract the plague as soon as the horrible disease is in season. This accounts for the wholesale death among the rats, and proves that the plague owes its existence to those stink-pots, or what they call sinking wells. When a rat is attacked by the disease, it comes out and dies in the house and transplants the plague-germs to the inmates. Whenever a dead rat is found in a house, unless the occupants clear out at once, some one in that house is sure to contract the plague—generally a servant of the family, since (1) servants' quarters are as a rule located at the back of the houses in the immediate vicinity of which dead rats (if there are any) are usually found, and (2) when a dead rat is found the duty to remove it naturally falls on the servant. This clearly shows that dead rats are the transmitting agents of plague-germs. It may be argued that when the epidemic made its first appearance in Hongkong in 1894, it chiefly confined itself to Taipingshan, so how was it that other parts of the town where all the drains were of the same "improved" type were comparatively free of the disease? It should be remembered that Taipingshan was the dirtiest spot on the island, and was also most thickly populated. It follows, therefore, that the drains in that particular locality were the first to become choked and get out of order, and that was the Eden-like garden of the plague. Macao has not adopted this "improved" drainage system, yet it was quite free of plague throughout 1894, and thousands of people from Hongkong, including the writer, flocked to her for "safe custody," and regarded her as a paradise of health. Of course, she now suffers all the same, but I think she should thank Hongkong for it. It was said that plague originated in Canton, and came to Hongkong in 1894, but this is nothing but an excuse. How is it that it did not go to Macao? Considering her geographical position she should have been infected before Hongkong was, if the statement that plague was introduced from Canton is anything. There is not the shadow of a doubt that the "improved" drainage system is responsible for the plague, and the sooner it is done away with the better.

So much about the origin of plague. Now comes another question which should engage the serious attention of the medical men. When a patient is discovered he is removed to the hospital for treatment—I call it experiment, since no doctors can say positively how a plague-patient should be treated. There is no known remedy. It will, therefore, be much better and more humane to allow the unfortunate victim to try his own method of doctoring. The way how a patient is removed from his or her house is sometimes most heart-rending. For instance, a girl is forced into the ambulance crying and yelling for her mother, and carried off to a strange place miles away from her home. The shock she receives is enough to kill her on the spot. As to grown-up people the sight of the ambulance alone will, more or less, hasten a man's death, as he knows only too well that he is suffering from plague and is being carried away to die.

Supposing a man is laid up with a high fever and calls in his medical adviser. He finds that his patient is suffering from a fatal disease, for which there is not much chance of recovery. Would he tell him straight that his case is

hopeless? Certainly not! So when a man has contracted plague, why should it be made known to him that he is dying?

There is one more thing I would like to mention. Mr. E. Osborne has been good enough to point out that the ambulances are not comfortably (sic!) fitted up. They are not only uncomfortable. The thin covering is good for nothing, and is worse than useless. When a patient is removed, say from Wanchai, to the plague hospital at noon on a bright, warm day, it will take the coolies at least two hours to negotiate the journey. They break their journey as often as they please, and when they want to rest and cool themselves, they would leave the ambulance and the poor patient to take care of themselves in the broiling sun; with the result that the victim arrives at the hospital half cooked, his temperature having risen some degrees en route. It is satisfactory to note, however, that new and better ambulances will soon be substituted, and I hope they will be fitted with more suitable coverings.—Yours, etc.,

FACTS.

THE RUMOURED CHINESE EXODUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
5th June.

SIR,—Referring to the leading article in your issue of even date, re the exodus of the Chinese from this Colony, I doubt very much if they are as much afraid of the epidemic as of the manner in which their sick and dead, plague-stricken or otherwise, are handled by the sanitary authorities.

As suggested by your correspondent "Seer," I think some consideration should be shown to them, though, in some respects, they are not much to be thought of.

There are Chinese representatives on the Legislative Council and on the Sanitary Board, and at the back of these gentlemen the committees of the Tung Wah Hospital (both past and present), the latter being in daily touch with the poor and ignorant. Why is their assistance not availed of to allay the existing alarm? I would suggest that a commission, with the Registrar-General and Capt. Superintendent of Police at the head, should be appointed amongst these gentlemen, to thoroughly investigate into the existing circumstances, and frame a new set of bye-laws for the suppression of the dreadful disease, with due regard both to the strict requirements of good sanitation and the feelings of the Chinese of every class. Thus even the poorest coolie will be given a chance to state his grievance, if he has any. Meetings of the commission should be held in the Tung Wah Hospital, or in the office of the society recently formed by the leading Chinese with the sole object of rendering assistance to the Government in all matters concerning themselves. In the meantime, pending the appointment of the commission, call in to help all these Chinese luminaries not, of course, with a view to let them "run the government of a British colony," but to ascertain from them the grievances of their countrymen and find out the best means to stop the alarm, thereby protecting our own as well as their trade interests.

Now that plague has become endemic in Hongkong, the same state of affairs will revive year by year, and drastic measures alone will not improve matters.

The sooner such measures as are practically doing no good, but causing a lot of unnecessary alarm, are substituted by ones more suitable for local purposes and to the point, the better.

Apologising for trespassing upon your valuable space.—Yours, etc.,

RIGHT.

PARSEES AND PLAGUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Canton, 3rd June.

SIR,—Another Parsee plague case, and no step whatever is taken by the trustees of the Parsee Charity Fund in Hongkong, who are said to be the heads of the Community! We all read in your columns, with admiration, the scathing remarks from the erudite pen of "Scrutator," and learn with burning shame how poor R. M. Mehta died. If the hands

of the Government are already full, at least we should know what to do. It behoves the heads of this handful of men to make some arrangements with the hospital authorities to have a separate room, a separate doctor, and a nurse, whilst there is a Parsee case in hospital, at our own expense, out of our fund. Ye heads of Community, ye know full well we ill afford to lose our men, and if they must die, at least let us have the melancholy satisfaction of saying that we did our duty by them, and let it not be said we are like the Chinese, who see their own men fall over, struggle in water for dear life, and never stretch a hand all the time to save them.—Yours, etc.,

H. S. K.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
5th June.

SIR,—The rebuke administered to the trustees of the Parsee Charity Fund in Hongkong by your Canton correspondent, H. S. K., in this morning's issue is quite justified as taken in the light of late events, and it is time the heads of the Parsee Community in this Colony bestirred themselves, and took such measures as would ensure immediate treatment, nursing, and attendance by a doctor in a separate matched or room in the plague hospital to any member of their community who is unfortunately attacked by this fell disease. In Bombay, a separate Parsee plague hospital is maintained from the funds specially raised for the purpose, and immediate and constant attendance by Parsee doctors, nurses, and ward boys is given free to all Parsee patients removed there. According to the statement of accounts for the year 1900, issued by the trustees of the Parsee Charity Fund in Hongkong, there is a balance of \$29,429.40 standing to the credit of the general fund, and it is from this fund that all necessary expenses for providing for a special doctor and nurse can be defrayed. It is also made painfully evident from the case of the late Mr. D. S. Gotla of the City Hall, that arrangements should be made to have the patient suffering from high fever removed at once to the plague hospital, and immediately put under the care of a competent nurse engaged specially for the purpose, even though plague symptoms may not have appeared. Most of the Parsees in Hongkong are either bachelors or are those who have their families left in Bombay. They are living either in messes of two and three or by themselves. If, therefore, any one of them is attacked with plague, there is nobody to nurse him in the house till plague symptoms appear, or plague germs are discovered in his blood by the doctor attending to him, as the Chinese servant takes to his heels immediately he gets an intimation that his master is down with plague. The late Mr. D. S. Gotla would have died like a coolie in his low cave-like room, situated in a retired nook of the City Hall, unattended by any one, had it not been for the unremitting efforts of the excellent Doctor Harston and the heroic devotion of two of his young friends, who stood by him and nursed him through his delirium the whole of Saturday night and Sunday noon, when he was finally removed to the hospital in a state of semi-unconsciousness and collapse.

Let, therefore, the leaders of the Parsee Community wake up to a sense of the duty they owe to their co-religionists, and concert measures against any future emergency of the like nature.

D. S. DADY BURJOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
5th June.

SIR,—With reference to the letter of Mr. D. S. Dady Burjor in your issue of to-day, I must crave space to correct a false impression that might be created by some of his statements. The late Mr. D. S. Gotla, whose loss the Committee and Staff of the City Hall very much regret, was not living in a "low cave-like room," but in a very light and airy room at a good height above the street level. Immediately he fell ill the Compradore reported the fact to me, and I visited him and ascertained that he was in the charge of Dr. Harston and attended by several friends.

I may also mention that the deceased persisted in continuing to occupy his room, although

warned to leave it some eight days before he became sick.—Yours, etc.,

F. B. L. BOWLEY,
Secretary, City Hall.

"SINOLOGUE"—"SINOLOGIST."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
30th May.

SIR,—You have for your columns at present many questions, much more important and interesting than such as may fall within the grammarian's or rhetorician's domain. Still, for the regard we all entertain for our mother-tongue, will you kindly permit me a little space to ask what right has the word *Sinologue* in English? We have many *logues*, it is true—catalogue, analogue, monologue, prologue, and a host of others—but not one, I believe, signifying a person versed in the particular *ology* specified by the first part of the word. No one would think of using in English the French forms *geologue*, *asterologue* or *Assyriologue*. Why then *sinologue* alone, when all the analogies of the language require *sinologist*, which is just as convenient a word, and does not remind us of French? Will it be said that usage, which, according to the Horatian dictum, is the last arbiter and law and rule of speech, has given its sanction to the foreign-looking *sinologue*? If so, we have but to bow our heads and accept it, as I think we must do for the word *Chinaman*; which, however, is a word of good English formation, and hardly deserves the condemnation it has received in certain quarters. *Sinologue*, it is true, is much used out here, but I believe it is rarer in home publications. At any rate, it may not be too late to correct the usage, and save our language from this unnecessary irregularity and anomaly, and from the reproach if reproach it be, of taking a word bodily from the French, instead of forming its own word according to established analogies.—Yours, etc.,

PURIST.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 3rd June.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, K.T., C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE),
AND COMMANDER BLACKBURN, R.N., AND
CAPTAIN G. C. ANDERSON, ASSESSORS.

THE RECENT "HANGCHOW"—"GLENNGYLE" COLLISION.

Judgment was delivered on the 3rd inst. in the cross-action by The China Navigation Company, Limited, against the steamship *Glengyle*, and by Macgregor Brothers & Gow against the steamship *Hangchow*.

Mr. J. J. Francis, K.C. (instructed by Messrs. Johnson, Stokes & Master), and Mr. E. H. Sharp (instructed by Messrs. Deacon & Hastings) appeared for the *Hangchow* and the *Glengyle* respectively.

His Lordship said that having regard to the necessity for a speedy disposal of this case, he proposed to deliver an oral judgment, reserving the right, if necessary hereafter, to place the judgment in writing. There was no great conflict of evidence between the parties on most of the points of the case, and the principal points upon which there was conflict were the question of the true boundaries of the Northern fairway and the question of whether one short blast or two long blasts was or were blown by the *Glengyle*. On the first point, there was some difficulty created by the inaccuracy of the provision contained in the schedule of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1891. There was no doubt that the provisions of the Ordinance with regard to the boundaries of the Northern fairway were repugnant to one another, or, rather, repugnant to the provisions of the Ordinance as dealing also with the Central fairway. The result of this manifest inconsistency in the Ordinance was that a vessel in the Central fairway might fly either the blue (Northern fairway) pennant or the white (Central fairway) pennant, and she could not be held responsible in law as being wrong for flying either of these pennants. The Central fairway was in fact by the Ordinance both

Central and Northern fairway. According to the evidence before the Court, his Lordship was satisfied that in practice the Central fairway had existed in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance, but the Northern fairway had, in practice, come to be defined by the Northern boundary of the Central fairway—roughly speaking the line of buoys which formed the southern boundary of that fairway and started from it to the ground or channel which was caused on the part of the *Glengyle* anchorage, which lay between the Northern fairway and the Central fairway. Vessels anchored in it at their discretion subject, he supposed, to the regulations of the Harbour Office. This appeared to have been the practice for some twelve or thirteen years. The masters of both ships had been navigating to this Colony for some fourteen years. The master of the *Glengyle* (Captain Darke) said he was aware of the custom, while Captain Pearse, of the *Hangchow*, said he was not aware of it. Captain Pearse, as Mr. Francis said, gave his evidence in a fair way, and his Lordship did not for a moment impute to him that he would tell an untruth, but, at the same time, he (his Lordship) must say that the preponderance of evidence was that this had been the practice. It was common ground to both parties that this was a navigating channel. The Acting Harbour Master said that vessels navigated through that channel at their own risk. There was not a true fairway, but he made it quite plain that a vessel was not wrong in going through that channel. The question then arose as to the flying of the pennant. Undoubtedly the *Hangchow* was flying the blue pennant. She alleged that she was going up that channel, treating it as part of the Northern fairway. The *Glengyle* had come down that channel, and as soon as she entered it she hauled down the blue pennant and flew no pennant at all. According to the Harbour Office she was right in doing so, but according to Captain Pearse, of the *Hangchow*, she was wrong in so doing, but his Lordship did not think on the whole that that fact really brought about this collision, or contributed to bring it about. Captain Pearse, in his examination-in-chief said—"The house flag on the *Glengyle* was flying at the main. She had no flag at the fore. I did not specially just then look for anything at the fore. Had there been anything I should have seen it. I did not look out at the time to see whether her screw was moving." In other words, his Lordship thought Captain Pearse made it look plain that he did not at the time attach much importance to that point. The non-flying of the blue pennant was not a fault as the matter went, and the *Glengyle* could not be held to blame on that account. It was alleged on the part of the *Glengyle* that she blew two long blasts, one when the *Hangchow* first came in sight, and the other about two minutes before the collision took place, and between these two blasts there was a short blast given by the *Hangchow*. The *Hangchow* people said that they did not hear the first of these blasts, and in regard to the second blast they said it was not a long blast, but was a short blast. The meaning of that short blast would be according to the regulations that the *Glengyle* was going to starboard. His Lordship accepted the statement of the *Glengyle*, and the evidence on the point clearly showed that she would not have gone to starboard. His Lordship then proceeded to deal with the allegations made by each ship in their preliminary acts, and also the arguments of counsel. First of all with regard to the question of the look-out, he was advised by his Assessors that an efficient look-out was not kept on board the *Hangchow*, and, if such a look-out had been kept, it would have been seen that the *Glengyle* was under way. There were two or three points admitted by witnesses for the *Hangchow*, which went to show that a proper and efficient look-out was not kept on board the *Hangchow*. The first and most important was the mistake that was made as to the position of the *Glengyle*. The master of the *Hangchow* said that he took the *Glengyle* to be at the South P. and O. buoy and the *Banca* to be at the North P. and O. buoy. This was not so, for, as a matter of fact, the *Banca* was at the South P. and O. buoy and the *Glengyle* was coming by the Messageries buoy. This was a palpable mistake and probably caused the collision, because he was steering in

the channel which he really did not mean to steer in. Then again, if Mr. Bridge could see the *Glengyle* going past the *Empress* off the *Kwonglee*, the *Hangchow* could see her coming past the *Empress* towards her. This further went to show that a careful look-out was not kept by the *Hangchow*. His Lordship was also advised by his assessors that, if the *Glengyle* had been moored with that tide running, a very moderate outlook would have shown that the anchors were taut. He was also advised that the *Hangchow* did not keep out of the way of the *Glengyle* as she was required to do by Article 19 of the Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea. She had the *Glengyle* on her starboard bow, and it was her duty in these circumstances to keep out of the way. She did not do so, and must be held to blame on that account. Under Article 20 she must not attempt to cross the head of the *Glengyle*, and on that ground she was also to blame. It was alleged in the preliminary acts that the *Hangchow* did not slacken her speed or stop or reverse her engines according to the requirements of Article 23. His Lordship made no finding on that point. She did stop and reverse, but too late to avoid collision. His assessors advised him also that the *Hangchow* did not keep that side of the channel which was required by Article 25. Her duty clearly was to keep on the starboard side of the channel. She did not do so, and was still on the port side when the collision took place. Therefore she was to blame for having broken that rule of navigation. He was also advised by his assessors that, even at the time when Captain Pearse said collision was inevitable, he really could with proper care and skill have gone to the other side of the *Glengyle*. It would have been possible to avoid the collision by the manoeuvre of letting go the port anchor and putting the helm hard to starboard, which would have swung her round. As regarded the case of *Glengyle*, the assessors found that an efficient look-out was kept. Then as regarded her not flying the blue pennant it was not necessary, according to the custom of the port, to fly a pennant while navigating this particular channel. The *Glengyle* had the right of navigating down this anchorage, and therefore could not be held to blame in coming up in the way she did to her buoy. The last point made against the *Glengyle* was that she did not stop and reverse full speed astern. His Lordship confessed that he was a good deal impressed with the arguments of Mr. Francis on this point. He supposed a landsman would take a very different view from an experienced navigator on a question of this kind. He was advised that the *Glengyle* did right, bearing in view the stringency of Article 21 and the position she was then in. The assessors advised him that it would not have been a prudent or safe course for the *Glengyle* to go astern earlier than she did. Had the assessors tendered different advice to him on that point, he probably would have taken it also because there was no doubt that the collision would have been averted had the *Glengyle* gone astern earlier than she did. He was inclined, however, to think, and did think, that the assessors were right. His view was that a master of a vessel was bound as a last resort to do what he could to avoid collision, and in this case the *Glengyle* did endeavour to avoid collision by going astern, and it would not, he was advised, have been a safe and seamanlike manoeuvre to have done it earlier. The assessors advised him that the *Glengyle* did everything that was right and proper in the circumstances, and that she contributed to the minimising of the collision. The result of these findings was that the *Hangchow* must be held solely to blame for this collision; and there must be a reference to the Registrar, assisted by merchants, to ascertain the extent of the damages to the *Glengyle*. The *Glengyle* would also have her costs in the action.

The Shanghai mandarins have been informed from Hsian to the effect that it has been decided that the province of Kiangsu shall contribute every year 3 million taels towards the payment of the foreign indemnity, and that the duty of arranging about the collection of this sum shall rest on the Governor of the province.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

Undernoted are the best scores made on Saturday in the Short Range Cup competition. Mr. Horley recorded his first win—the leading man not being an aspirant for cup honours:—

	200	500	600	Handi-	To-
	yds.	yds.	yds.	cap.	tal.
* C. A. Ormsby ...	27	34	26	12	99
† H. Horley ...	30	33	32	—	95
* Q. M. S. Wallace, R.E. ...	32	31	31	—	94
A. Watson ...	29	33	31	—	93
A. Mackenzie ...	27	35	30	—	92
J. Cramer ...	28	34	28	—	90
"Brown" ...	31	26	31	—	88
Ar.-Sgt. Blair ...	28	32	28	—	88
J. J. Andrews ...	29	27	26	6	88
Sgt. Bowery, R.E. ...	27	29	29	—	85

* Winners of spoons. † Winner of cup.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

"C" MACHINE GUN CO.

The May shoot of "C" Machine Gun Company for the "Keswick" Cups resulted as follows. There were no spoons.

	200	400	500	H'cap.	Tl.
Sergeant Sherwin	26	33	22	9	90
Bomb. Shoolbred	29	33	26	—	88
Sergeant Smillie	28	29	23	5	85
Corporal Gloyd	29	23	13	10	75
Sergeant C. Lee	16	14	14	21	65

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CAPTAIN'S CUP AND SILVER MEDAL FOR JUNE.

The heat during the competition days probably accounts for the scarcity and poorness of the returns. The following were the only scores handed in:—

CAPTAIN'S CUP.			
Mr. J. H. T. McMurtrie ...	87	0	87
Mr. C. M. G. Burnie ...	96	3	93
Mr. E. J. Grist ...	99	6	93
Mr. W. L. Gill, R.N. ...	113	14	99

(Nine entries.)

POOL.			
Mr. J. H. T. McMurtrie ...	87	0	87
Mr. C. M. G. Burnie ...	96	3	93
Mr. E. J. Grist ...	99	6	93

(Ten entries.)

HONGKONG.

The return of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum last week showed that 195 non-Chinese and 53 Chinese visited the former institution, 62 non-Chinese and 1,171 Chinese the latter.

Three 12-inch guns for the Navy were being unloaded at the Kowloon Docks on the 1st inst. from the Blue Funnel steamer *Prometheus*. The Dock Company's tackle was used, and two of the guns were safely landed. Just as the third reached the top of the hold, the sling broke, precipitating the gun into the hold and starting some of the steamer's plates. The gun has since been got ashore and the vessel docked for repairs. The damage, it is understood, is not serious.

The state of affairs engendered by the present epidemic of plague in the Colony is having a very bad effect on Chinese generally, and is much felt by all foreigners employing native labour, workmen running away as soon as they receive their pay. On the 3rd inst. we noticed a hard-working medico, who has been much engaged of late in dealing with plague cases, being trundled round town in his ricksha by a decrepit old coolie, his private coolies having disappeared.

At the offices of the Public Works Department on the 3rd inst. Mr. G. J. W. King offered for sale by public auction two lots of Crown land, one situated in Victoria (Barker Road) and the other in Mong Kok Tsui, Kowloon. The former, known as Rural Building Lot No. 107, is 11,049 square feet in contents, and has an annual rental attached of \$63. The purchasers, Messrs. Denison and Ram, paid \$1,456 for the lot—\$20 above the upset price. Kowloon Inland Lot No. 1,127 (contents in square feet, 1,300 annual rental, \$16) fetched \$1,320; Mr. E. M. Hazeland being the buyer. The upset price was \$1,300.

Mr. W. J. G. Whaley has been appointed Consul at Hongkong for Peru.

We understand the local Government has ordered an enquiry into the cause of a recent suicide at the goal.

The Sanitary Board are adding to their staff in order, if possible, to cope with the present plague epidemic.

A Chinese workman fell from a building in course of erection at Hunghom on Wednesday afternoon, and was killed.

The City Hall (including the Museum, Library, and Theatre) will be closed for a month for decoration and repairs.

A month's leave of absence has been granted to the Hon. T. H. Whitehead from his duties as a member of Council. He is now in Manila on banking business.

H.M.S. *Lizard* is leaving very soon for Singapore, probably on her way back to the Australian station, whence she was borrowed during the Chinese crisis last year.

H.E. the Governor has been pleased to appoint J. J. Bell-Irving an unofficial member of the Executive and Legislative Councils during the absence on leave of the Hon. J. J. Keswick.

Apart from plague cases last week (of which there were 215—161 in Victoria—with 207 deaths), there were reported 2 cases of enteric fever and one of small-pox, the latter proving fatal.

We learn that certain correspondence has recently passed between the local Government and the Portuguese representative here with regard to the description in some official documents of the various classes of Portuguese in Hongkong. We believe that the matter is now satisfactorily settled.

We understand that the Chinese in the Colony intend petitioning H.E. the Governor to be allowed to return to their homes in the country should they be seized with plague or other infectious disease. The granting of such a petition, it is not necessary to point out, would be a breach of the Venice Convention.

The appointment of Dr. Robert Lamont temporarily to be medical officer in charge of the gaol is notified in the *Government Gazette*. This is a step in the right direction, as the appointment will enable Dr. Thompson to attend more to the plague hospital, but it is not sufficient. We need half a dozen more medical men at least to assist in grappling with the plague and bad sanitation.

Even the Peak district is not safe from the attentions of those who have dead bodies to dump. At about 8 a.m. on the 5th inst., at a spot about 20 feet from the junction of Plantation and Pokfulam Roads, the dead body of a Chinese coolie might be seen by any passer-by, with a policeman standing guard near and a coffin ready at hand for the disposal of the body.

The steamer *Haiching*, from Taku, which left the harbour on the 4th instant carrying Major-General Cumming, D. S. O., and officers from the North back to India, encountered rough weather outside and had to put back. The vessel again put to sea, but a case of plague occurred on board, and for the second time the *Haiching* was forced to return. The steamer will leave on her voyage when she has been thoroughly disinfected.

A feast will be given at No. 3 Police Station on Sunday morning to Hindus and Sikhs, to commemorate the laying on that day of the foundation stone of a new *Dharmasala* (or temple) at Happy Valley. It has been a long-standing grievance with Hindus and Sikhs in the Colony that for those followers of that faith who are not members of the police force there is no place of worship. A movement, influentially headed, was recently started, the object of which was to secure a piece of ground whereon a temple could be erected. An application to Government resulted in the gift of a site at Morrison Hill, Happy Valley, on the spot where the Hindu and Sikh cremation ground is at present located. Subscription lists were then opened and encouragingly subscribed to by those interested, with the result that a sum of \$8,000 is now in hand to proceed with the building of the *Dharmasala*. This is only \$1,500 short of the estimated cost of the temple, which will run to about \$9,500. The building will be a two-story one. The arrangements connected with the ceremony of laying the foundation stone have not yet been concluded.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Drs. Christopher and Stevens are expected shortly from England to make inquiries and investigations in India into the causes of malarial fever.

The French papers state that M. Klobukowski, at present French Consul-General at Calcutta, is almost certain to receive the appointment of Minister at Bangkok.

Comte Louis Joffroy D'Abbans, French Consul at Singapore, was last month in Selangor for the purpose of arranging for the participation of the Federated Malay States in next year's inter-colonial exhibition at Hanoi, and to gather materials for a report on the trade and commerce of the States generally.

A fire broke out on the evening of the 30th ult. in the China Merchant Company's premises, known as the Stone House, Foochow Road, Shanghai. The fire originated in the basement, and the flames soon broke through the flooring of the hall, but on the arrival of the Fire Brigade, the fire was soon under control. The cause of the fire is not known, but the damage was small, and the premises and contents were insured.

On the last day of the Singapore Races, the 25th ult., the Scurry Stakes were won by Mr. Tunnicliffe's *Orpheus*, the Stewards' Cup by Messrs. Smada's and Gwynne's *Vagrant* (8 running), and the Singapore Stakes by Mr. Tamboosamy Pillay's *Battlefield*, who was followed by Mr. Cheang Thye's *Residue* and Mr. Tunnicliffe's *Orpheus*. *Orpheus* was the only triple winner at the meeting.

A Nagasaki despatch states that an American soldier assaulted a passer-by in the street there with a sword on the 25th ult., and the offender was sent to the local Chiho Saibansho. The American was sentenced to imprisonment for a month and a half. The telegram adds that outrages by American soldiers are reported from various quarters in the town and the judicial officials and the police force are thereby kept busy at present.

A despatch to the *Asahi* states that an outbreak of bubonic plague in Tokyo is threatened. Five dead rats have been found in the kitchen and goods-store of the Imperial University hospital and these were analytically examined. Plague germs were found. The metropolitan police issued an urgent order on the 25th ult. for the enforcement of general measures for disinfection and the extermination of rats as preventive measures against the plague.

The recent outburst of the Kloe volcano in Java was attended by great loss of life. Torrents of lava and hot mud flowed amid showers of ashes and stones. Many natives and a few Europeans perished. On an estate called Afas Kedarung, the manager, amid a shower of stones, fled from a torrent of lava in a carriage with his wife, two children, and a nurse. The lava overtook them; The children, the nurse, the syce, and the horses perished. The parents jumped into a clump of bamboos and saved themselves. The lava also consumed the superintendent of the estate and about twenty-five coolies. Many coffee estates in the neighbourhood were destroyed. The country around was strewn with corpses.

The *Singapore Free Press* quotes a private letter from a very competent observer of the situation as it is at Peking, or at least as it was during his recent visit there. It calls a spade a spade with extreme precision, says our contemporary, and, if we could, we would much enjoy quoting its text. Without naming names, this racy bit of epigrammatic summing up deals with the Foreign Ministers other than British. It is for those who know to supply the gaps:—"As regards the Foreign Ministers, somebody said that a very heavy indemnity should be demanded from the Chinese for not having killed them. A. is a coward and a drivelling fool. B. rides very well in steeple, chases. C. was just the man for West of the Mississippi. D. represents a dying nation with painful exactness. E. eats enormous dinners. F. and C., like E., are new men and don't know or care about anything. H. speaks no language but his own and Russian, and keeps an eye on de Giers. And J. used to be called the best-dressed man in London, but having lost all his kit in the siege, has now to be content with trying to avoid looking like a beachcomber."

M. Pichon, late French Minister at Peking, has reached Japan after a short visit to Corea.

The British hospital ship *Carthage* left on Tuesday for Calcutta. Yesterday the transport *Ula* arrived from the same.

Locusts were swarming in Manila at the end of May and were being sold as delicacies in the local markets, the Filipinos buying them eagerly.

It is reported from Seoul that two French teachers recently engaged at the Mining School by the Korean Government have been dismissed.

The following appointments have been made at the Admiralty:—Captain—R. H. S. Stokes, to the *Eclypse*, to date May 30; Lieutenant D. Fulton (R.N.R.), to the *Ocean*, for twelve months' training, to date May 17.

The British river gunboat *Snipe*, it is reported from Shanghai, starts early this month for an extensive journey all round the Poyang and Tungting Lakes, "to show the flag" to the natives of those populous and important regions.

The *Echo de Chine* says it learns that the authorities of Chekiang wished to impose an extraordinary tax of \$2 on each bale of silk exported, but that, on an energetic protest of M. Ratard, French Consul-General, the tax was immediately abolished.

Duffadar Dul Singh, of the Jodhpore Imperial Service Lancers, has been admitted to the 3rd class Order of Merit for conspicuous gallantry near Shanhaikwan in North China on 12th January. He, with only three men, effectually protected a foraging party of his regiment against a superior force of Chinese.

We received on the 4th inst. from the Acting Colonial Secretary a letter informing us that a British Congress on Tuberculosis will be held in London on the 22nd July, 1901, and that any one who may wish to attend the Congress or to support it financially can obtain full particulars on applying at the Colonial Secretary's Office.

It is understood that H. E. Sir Claude MacDonald and Lady MacDonald are likely to make a short trip to Europe, leaving Japan early next month. Sir Claude has not had leave of absence for several years, and it is to be hoped that no unlooked-for complication may interfere to prevent his enjoyment of a well-earned spell of leisure.

Epidemics of so-called "queue-cutting" have on various occasions caused panics in China. The natives have as a rule attributed the outrage either to "foreign devils" or to the White Lily society. A Japanese doctor, however, according to the Chinese native papers, has discovered that the loss of a queue may often result from the action of a microbe which is found on flies and rats. Perhaps the "bald-head disease" which ravaged Formosa was of the same origin.

It is stated that Count von Waldersee has declined being given a special reception by the Japanese Government during his stay in this country. His visit to Japan, he says, is merely with the object of enjoying the beautiful scenery for which the country is famous and to witness the progress which the Japanese Army, organised upon the basis of the German army, has made. Nevertheless there is no doubt that Count von Waldersee will receive distinguished attention in this country—*Kobe Chronicle*.

The Ottoman mission to China, which left Constantinople on the 1st May under Brigadier-General Enver Pacha, consists partly of military men and partly of Mussulman clergy, and is charged to establish relations with Mussulmans in China. There are two high military officers and two distinguished Ulemas. The delay in the departure of the mission, which had been fixed several times but postponed again and again, was principally due to Russian opposition. On the other hand, the idea of the mission was favoured by the German Embassy.

The King of Siam accompanied by his suite arrived at Batavia over a fortnight ago, and was received with every honour. After a few days' sightseeing he left Batavia for Bandung, a health resort in west Java, where he arrived on the 19th ult. A shower of Siamese orders fell on the King's departure from Batavia, the *Straits Times* says. The Governor-General of Netherlands India received the Grand Cross of the Crown Order, the decorations of which also reached nine other recipients. Ten persons received decorations of the White Elephant Order. Of course, most of those thus honoured were officials.

For services and courtesies extended to the Spanish Crown, previous to American occupation of the Philippines, Mr. John T. Macleod of Manila has been decorated by the Spanish Government with the order of the Grand Cross of Isabel la Catolica.

On the 30th ult. the Great Northern Telegraph Co.'s cable steamer, the *Store Nordiske*, finished the laying of the duplicate Chefoo-Taku cable, which is intended to strengthen the independent cable connection between Shanghai and North China.

Viscount Nagayaka, who is closely associated with Prince Konoye in the scheme for drawing Japan and China more closely together, left Shanghai on the 30th ult., accompanied by the Japanese Consul-General, to see the Viceroy Liu Kuang-yi and Chang Chih-tung.

The *Bangkok Times*, discussing the special jury question here, says:—British jurors in Bangkok have the same grievance as those in Hongkong, with this difference, that in a fair proportion of cases here the sensible plan is adopted of calling practical business men as assessors.

A number of missionaries have returned to Anhwei and Kiangsu. The Roman Catholic mission is at Wuhohien in the north east of Anhwei. The Christian Missions are at Chuchoo and Tsewintsiachien, and the C.I.M. at Liaang-bien. At Luchefu the Christian Mission are at work, and in Luanchoo the C.I.M. have most of their workers back on the field.

Great activity is shown in fortifying the country along the coast at Batavia. It is intended to utilise pensioners as guards in these fortifications in time of peace. In time of war, the troops detached to garrison them will be held in readiness at Batavia to hasten to their posts at the first alarm. Another idea that has found favour is to encourage the growth of brushwood around the forts, so as to conceal them from the enemy.

The *China Gazette* of the 31st ult. is very indignant about the paragraph in our report of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce meeting dealing with the "Piracy of Reuter's Political Telegrams." Our contemporary goes on to say that it does not indulge in such piracy. That being so, the vigour of the protest, we should think, must strike the average reader as unnecessary, for such proceedings as may be instituted here under Ordinance No. 14 of 1894 would only be directed against those who are guilty of piracy.

A Korean despatch says that M. Caosarey, who concluded the loan with the Government, has secretly applied to Mr. Morgan, concessionaire of the Inzan gold mine, to supply him with the requisite amount of gold. The nature of the Yunnan syndicate is being gradually exposed. It is even asserted that it is a body of speculators, not of capitalists, who are seizing the opportunity to make large profits. Their operations are being looked upon with suspicion. The contract, however, has not yet been broken off.

Mr. and Mrs. Broadbent arrived in Hongkong from Amoy on the 24th inst., en route for England; and we understand that they do not intend to return to the Far East. Mr. Broadbent is an old China hand, having spent some 40 years in these parts, during nearly 30 of which he has been honourably connected with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. For many years he has been Manager of the Amoy Branch of the Bank, and his departure, and that of his wife, will leave a great blank in Amoy, where they have by their goodness and kind geniality endeared themselves to everybody. Mrs. Broadbent, too, will be sorely missed by the Chinese women at the port. Some years ago she founded a Lace Guild, in which she personally instructed Chinese women to make lace, and made arrangements for the sale of the lace they made. Gradually the Lace Guild attained considerable proportions; large numbers of women have learned in it a useful art by which they have been able to contribute in no small degree to the support of their homes; and have also learned many a lesson of good living from the constant contact with Mrs. Broadbent. The crowds of neatly dressed but tearful women who came to see her off bore witness to the great influence which Mrs. Broadbent had acquired amongst them by her kindly love and sympathy, and wise practical help.

It is stated that a portion of the baggage pilfered by a junk from the wrecked P. & O. liner *Sobraon* has been recovered.

Five leading Tokyo papers, including the *Mainichi*, are reported to have been suspended for discussing too freely the democratizing of the government.

The Japanese military authorities contemplate changing the uniform of the army to grey or khaki colour, the present white having been found very disadvantageous in the North China campaign.

It is officially stated from Singapore that the Queen of Siam has given a further donation of \$200 to the "Queen of Siam's Library" for English-reading patients at the General Hospital, Singapore.

The Straits Government has sanctioned the Singapore Municipal electric light installation scheme, for the provision of which a sum of \$150,000 has been set apart in the new Singapore municipal loan of \$1,000,000.

Sir Even Cameron has, we are glad to learn from home papers, completely recovered from his recent operation, and resumed his post at the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation from the beginning of May.

The Shanghai A.D.C. gave its 124th performance on the 4th inst., when *His Excellency the Governor* was staged by the Shanghai amateurs for the first time. Particulars of the performance are not yet to hand.

At a special sitting of H.B.M. Supreme Court Shanghai, on the 28th ult., Sir William Neville Montgomery Geary, Bart., was admitted by His Honour, Chief Justice Wilkinson, to practise as a barrister in the Supreme Court for China and Corea.

Japanese papers now state that attempts are being made to form a Hoshi-Katsura Ministry. Count Inouye is busily engaged, and has been received in audience by the Emperor. There is even a rumour that the Count is inclined to accept the portfolio of Finance.

The *Jiji* learns that about ten vessels of the British squadron on the China station will assemble at Nagasaki on or about the 14th of next month on their way to Yokohama, at which port they are expected to arrive about the 20th of that month. The vessels will then proceed to the North, and will engage in manoeuvres in the neighbourhood of Hakodate.

The *Universal Gazette* states that while the Court has consented to stopping the Provincial Examinations for the M. A. degree for five years throughout the Empire, those of Kwangtung province will continue as heretofore owing to the fact that stoppage will prevent the continuation of the Weising Lottery at Canton, which gives a million and a half dollars a year to Government.

The *Echo de Chine* says that M. Doumer, Governor-General of French Indo-China, who has been so successful in his promotion of the railways in the colony he governs, is now about to consecrate his indefatigable ardour to the promotion of railways in Yunnan. He relies on the concurrence of those who have savings to invest and of the great French captains of industry, and trusts that when he leaves Paris on the 27th of July next, the scheme will be in train.

The *New Press* of the 24th inst. reports:—Yesterday morning the local share market was in a flutter of excitement over the sudden boom in the shares of the Kaiping Coal Mine, for which the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. here are the agents. It was currently reported in town yesterday that, according to a telegram received from the mine at Tong Shan, a new discovery of tin had been made. Consequently, the shares soon rose to 450 taels yesterday morning, but dropped to 350 taels in the afternoon.

Commenting on the censorship exercised by the police authorities in suspending some of the Japanese papers for publishing the programme of the new Socialist Party, the *Japan Herald* says:—After careful perusal of the manifesto, we fail to see how its publication could possibly be regarded as inimical to peace and order. The prohibition is absurd. Day after day, scurrilous personal abuse of the most vulgar description is absolutely ignored, but the academic expression of socialistic principles, which are discussed as mere matters of course in Europe and America, at once elicits this extraordinary order.

By grants made of £1,000 each on 2nd inst. by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, a new see of Shantung has been provided with an endowment of £400 per annum, and the Bishop in Corea with an endowment of £300 per annum. To each of these funds an anonymous benefactor gave sufficient capital to produce £200 per annum.

The *Manila Times* is responsible for the statement that one of the officers of the transport *Grant* states that the sentiment in America was now practically unanimous for the retention of the Philippine Islands, and there was a marked subsidence of the anti-imperialist party. The apparent change was attributed to the capture of Aguinaldo and the many surrenders that have lately taken place. The anti-expansionist feeling that was so evident during the election was quickly vanishing.

There have been various rumours and reports of late in the native papers, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, that the Secret Societies were contemplating serious attacks in the 4th moon—that is, at this time—on the Yangtze ports, especially Nanking, Chinkiang, and Wuchang. Little credence need be given to these reports; the Yangtze Viceroy is quite strong enough to keep down the secret societies; and these reports are mostly spread about by those who hope by this means to frighten the well-to-do people into returning to their homes in the country, and rob them on the way.

A San Francisco telegram, dated April 26th, has the following references to the U.S. Minister to China:—Major Edwin H. Conger, United States Minister to China, has to-day received scores of callers, who have congratulated him and his family upon their escape from the murderous Boxers and safe and happy return to their native land. When asked about the report often repeated during the last few months, that he is "out" with the administration and is practically recalled, Minister Conger said there was absolutely no foundation for the rumour. "One of the last letters I had before starting home," he added, "was from Secretary Hay, assuring me there was no foundation for stories that have appeared in the papers to this effect. He said he wrote fearing I might be influenced by the lies that were appearing in the papers, and he explicitly told me that my course was fully approved by the department and the President, and that my work was entirely satisfactory. The administration has nothing to do with the discussion of my name for the governorship of Iowa. That came up since I obtained leave, and is being urged by friends without regard to my relations with the administration." Minister Conger will not say positively what he will do until he returns to Iowa, but his intimation plainly is that he will not disappoint the friends who have stood by him all his long political career if they want him to take the governorship—and they are saying so.

The *Foochow Echo* of the 25th ult. says:—The late Tartar General, Shan Lien, is to be buried with his fathers outside the Ch'i Hua gate of Peking, in the family burial-ground. His coffin was escorted in great state on Thursday from the City to the steamer (the *Hein Fung*) which is taking it up to Shanghai. At two in the afternoon the funeral cortege arrived at the long Bridge jetty on the island. The coffin was borne by thirty-six bearers on a magnificent bier. Near the jetty, where the coffin had to pass, two tables were laid out, on which stood the usual sacrificial offerings and the tablets of the late General and his ancestors. All the high Provincial Authorities, Tartar and Chinese, (except the Viceroy, who could not be present) were in attendance. The Chinese officials, including the Provincial Judge and the Taotais, Superintendents of the Board of Foreign Affairs, all knelt down and kowtowed to the tablets at one of the tables; at the other, mid the firing of cannon and the blowing of shawms, the new Tartar General and his suite knelt while the names and titles, life, deeds, illness and death of Shan Lien were read out to the world. The new General kowtowed to the tablets of the dead one, and all the officials rose to greet the nephew and heir of the man who had gone to join his ancestors. The Foreign Consuls with the exception of the French and Dutch were all present, and saluted the coffin as it passed.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 25th May.—Tatlees.—Stocks in Old Season's Silk are nil. Some contracts have been made, for second crop Silk, but the prices have not transpired. Re-reels.—A few further settlements are reported, but buyers in general cannot pay the prices asked for contracts in new Silk. Filatures.—A good general business has been done during the fortnight under review, the total settlements for Europe amounting to about 1,400 bales for this period. The new Silk (1st crop) is neglected and paid at rather low prices. The second crop promises to be better in quality, the weather being favourable lately. Prices in general are unchanged.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 7th June.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 7th June.—Large arrivals having been reported, the prices are consequently going downward. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.75 to \$8.80	pol.
do. " 2, White.....	7.95 to 8.00	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ...	5.75 to 5.80	"
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.70 to 5.75	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.65 to 8.70	"
do. " 1, White.....	7.70 to 7.85	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown ...	5.70 to 5.75	"
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.55 to 5.60	"
Foochow Sugar Candy	13.45 to 13.50	"
Shekloong "	12.75 to 12.80	"

RICE.

HONGKONG, 7th June.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.40 to 2.45
" Round, Good quality	3.50 to 3.55
" Long	3.70 to 3.75
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.45 to 2.50
" Garden, " No. 1	3.25 to 3.30
" White.....	3.95 to 4.00
" Fine Cargo	4.35 to 4.40

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *City of Peking*, sailed on the 1st May. For San Francisco:—1 case silkgoods. For Acapulco:—1 case silkgoods. For Corinto:—1 case silkgoods. For La Libertad:—4 cases silkgoods. For Champerico:—2 cases silkgoods. For Guayaquil:—3 cases silkgoods. For New York:—2 cases silkgoods, 15 bales raw silk.

Per steamer *Gaelic*, sailed on the 7th May. For San Francisco:—10 cases silkgoods. For La Libertad:—1 case silkgoods. For La Union:—2 cases silkgoods. For San José de Guatemala:—1 case silkgoods. For Panama:—18 cases silkgoods. For Guayaquil:—3 cases silkgoods. For Whitehall:—50 bales waste silk. For New York:—159 bales raw silk.

Per steamer *Hongkong Maru*, sailed on the 18th May. For San Francisco:—12 cases silkgoods. For La Libertad:—1 case silkgoods. For Acapulco:—5 cases silkgoods. For Corinto:—2 cases silkgoods. For Champerico:—3 cases silkgoods. For San José de Guatemala:—3 cases silkgoods. For Panama:—2 cases silkgoods. For Balparaiso:—3 cases silkgoods. For Whitehall:—50 bales waste silk. For New York:—1 case silkgoods.

Per Imperial German Mail steamer *Sachsen*, sailed on the 29th May. For Aden:—1 box silkpiecgoods. For Port Said:—3 cases bamboo. For Smyrna:—10 cases staranised oil. For Trieste:—100 bales rattan having, 70 half-chests tea, 25 cases staranised. For Genoa:—230 bales raw silk, 100 bales waste silk, 20 pkgs. cane. For Genoa and/or Barcelona:—40 pkgs. cane. For Antwerp:—50 bales rattan, 36 rolls matting, 12 bales feathers. For Antwerp and/or London:—20 boxes bristles. For Amsterdam:—11 cases Chinaware, 5 cases preserves, 3 bales matting. For Rotterdam:—190 bales cane. For Bremen:—100 rolls matting, 78 half-chests tea, 40 cases tastic. For Bremen and/or Hamburg:—14 cases Chinaware. For Hamburg:—397 bales feathers, 100 boxes palmleafs, 50 boxes cane, 44 half-chests tea, 15 boxes Chinaware, 7 cases paper, 5 boxes feathers.

Per steamer *China*, sailed on the 25th May. For San Francisco:—8 cases silkgoods. For La Libertad:—1 case silkgoods. For Champeris:—1 case silkgoods. For Panama:—7 cases silkgoods. For Guayaquil:—11 cases silkgoods. For Callao:—4 cases silkgoods. For New York:—7 cases silkgoods, 164 bales raw silk.

Per steamer *Calchas*, sailed on the 28th May. For London:—125 boxes tea—(particulars unknown), 150 bales waste silk, 145 bales feathers, 890 rolls mats, 109 drums oil, 100 cases P. L. fans, 80 cases essential oil, 89 cases Chinaware, 25 cases blackwoodware, 17 cases shell, 6 cases cigars, 4 cases curios, 3 cases featherdusters, 1 case China ink, 266 pkgs. hides, 57 pkgs. P. effects and sundries. For London opt. Hamburg:—102 bales canes, 67 bales galangal.

Per steamer *Afridi*, sailed on the 31st May. For New York:—227 cases blackwoodware, 175 bales split bamboo, 50 cases strawcuff, 37 cases cassia, 34 cases galangal, 27 cases Chinaware, 2,054 pkgs. merchandise.

Per P. & O. steamer *Ceylon*, sailed on the 31st May. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For London:—166 bales waste silk, opt. Goole, 130 bales waste silk, opt. Manchester, 2,445 m/pkgs. firecrackers, 274 bags copper ore, 245 rolls mats, 126 boxes tea, 59 bales canes, 30 cases canes, 30 cases p. l. fans, 30 cases cassia, 10 cases broken cassia, 28 cases blackwoodware, 29 cases Chinaware, 16 cases porcelain, 15 cases effects, 5 cases curios, 6 cases bambooware, 1 case screens, 5 bales cori.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 7th June.—Malwa:—Has been dealt in sparingly. The following are the present quotations:—

New.....	at \$840
2 Years.....	850
3 ".....	860
4/5 ".....	870
Putterfore.....	880

Bengal.—Market was very firm during the first part of the fortnight. Old Patna advanced to \$975, at which price a fair quantity changed hands. Latterly a quiet feeling prevailed but quotation remains unchanged, although no business transpired this week. In Old Benares there is hardly anything doing and may be quoted at \$955. A few chests of New Patna were sold at \$960 to \$990, but subsequently receded to \$980 which is the closing quotation. New Benares changed hands at \$960/957, the latter being the closing quotation.

Persian.—No business has been reported in this drug, but there is no change in prices.

STOCK.

Patna.....	1,905
Benares.....	934
Malwa.....	677½
Persian.....	2,166

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 8th June.—Only superior qualities were in demand; others neglected. Stock, about 7,500 bales.

Bombay,	17.00 to 18.00 picul	
Bengal (New), Rangoon, } and Dacca,	18.00 to 22.00	"
Shanghai and Japanese, ...	22.00 to 23.50	"
Tungchow and Ningpo,.....	22.00 to 24.00,	"
Sale: 350 bales.		

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 7th June.—Notwithstanding the most active season of the year, business continues in the same dull lethargic state as last advised, but demand, no doubt, is still greatly checked by the unsettled condition of the country and the disorganisation of trade generally throughout the Empire. Latest advices from the North are, however, very encouraging and point to an early and brisk revival of the trade.

Sales of the fortnight aggregate 5,712 bales. No. 10s. as usual comprising the bulk of the settlements. The tendency of the market has been all in buyers' favour, and a further decline of 50 cents to a dollar per bale can be quoted, despite a slight improvement in special tickets of No. 10s. and No. 16s. in consequence of their scarcity. Arrivals during the interval are moderate, but with comparatively smaller off-takes stocks show a small increase on last estimate. The market closes quiet but steady.

Local Mill quotations are maintained, and about 250 bales of No. 12s. are reported to have changed hand at \$86½. The Mill has entirely ceased working for the present.

Japanese Spinings.—Are comparatively quiet and weak; only some 300 bales having found buyers, at \$105½ for Kanegafuchi No. 16s., \$107½ for Kanegafuchi No. 20s., and \$109 for Settsu No. 20s.

Raw Cotton.—A further decline of 50 cents per picul has induced a fair business in Indian descriptions and about 800 bales Bengal are reported sold at from \$18 to \$18½, leaving a stock of about 6,000 bales on the market. A parcel of about 100 bales Dacca has been readily taken up at \$21. China Cotton has been quiet throughout and no business is reported. Stock about 500 bales (small). Quotations are:—Indian \$15 to \$21. China \$22 to \$23½.

Exchange on India after some trifling fluctuations closes steady at Rs. 147½ for T/T and Rs. 140½ for Post. On Shanghai 72½, and on Yokohama 3½ per cent. premium.

The undernoted business in imported and local Spinings is reported from Shanghai from the 11th ultimo to the 2nd instant, viz:—

Indian.—Total sales 11,708 bales, comprising 17 bales of No. 6s, 7,184 bales No. 10s., 400 bales No. 12s., 1,126 bales No. 16s., and 2,998 bales No. 20s., prices continuing steady and market closing strong and hopeful. Estimated unsold stock about 35,000 bales.

Japanese.—Total sales 3,500 bales on the basis of Tls. 75½ to Tls. 78½ for No. 16s., and Tls. 77½ to Tls. 79 for No. 20s., prices showing a decline of Tls. 2 to Tls. 3 and market closing weak.

Local.—Total sales 5,300 bales on the basis of Tls. 69 to Tls. 70½ for No. 10s., Tls. 71 to Tls. 75 for No. 14s., and Tls. 74 to Tls. 77 for No. 16s., prices showing a declining of Tl. 1 to Tls. 2 and market closing unsteady.

COALS.

HONGKONG, 7th June.—Very, small business doing.

Cardiff.....	\$25.00 ex ship nominal
Australian.....	\$12.00 to 12.50 ex godown, nominal
Yubari Lump.....	\$12.00 ex godown, nominal
Milki Lump.....	\$10. ex ship
Moji Lump.....	\$7.00 to \$9.50 ex ship, steady
Hongay double }	10.50 ex godown
screened.....	
Hongay Lump.....	8.50 ex ship
Hongay Dust.....	5.50 "
Briquettes.....	14.50 "

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 7th June.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn: 50 bales No. 8 at \$78.50, 250 bales No. 10 at \$79 to \$97, 100 bales No. 12 at \$86 to \$86.50, 250 bales No. 20 at \$98.50 to \$100.

COTTON YARN—	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$75.00 to \$109.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.....	2.00 to 2.10
7 lbs.....	2.15 to 2.30
8.4 lbs.....	2.60 to 3.25
9 to 10 lbs.....	3.30 to 4.40
White Shirtings—54 to 58 rd.....	2.30 to 2.50
58 to 60 ".....	3.00 to 3.75
64 to 66 ".....	4.00 to 5.30
Fine.....	5.00 to 7.40
Book-folds.....	4.00 to 6.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.73 to 1.20
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.....	1.60 to 1.75
7lbs. (32 ").....	1.80 to 2.05
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.....	1.80 to 2.00
7lbs. (32 ").....	2.65 to 3.30
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.).....	2.70 to 3.20
Drills, English—40yds., 14 to }	4.00 to 6.75
16 lbs.....	

FANCY COTTONS—Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to } 1.55 to 5.00
8 lbs }

Brocades—Dyed.....	per yard
Chintzes—Assorted.....	0.08½ to 0.17
Velvets—Black, 22 in.....	0.22½ to 0.60
Velveteens—18 in.....	0.20 to 0.22½

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk.....	0.36 to 2.50
WOOLENS—	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.....	0.80 to 1.50
Habit, Med. and Broad Cloths.....	1.25 to 2.50
Long Ells—Scarlet.....	6.40 to 10.00
Assorted.....	6.50 to 10.10

Camlets—Assorted.....	12.50 to 32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches }	8.00 to 20.00
Assorted }	
Orleans—Plain.....	8.50 to 10.00
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.....	4.00 to 18.00
METALS—	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod.....	4.35 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.).....	4.45 to —
Swedish Bar.....	6.75 to —
Small Round Rod.....	4.60 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.....	5.25 to —
Wire 15/25.....	8.25 to —
Old Wire Rope.....	2.10 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop.....	8.50 to —
Australian.....	8.25 to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz 14/20 oz.....	41.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.....	40.50 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.....	40.50 to —
Composition Nails.....	63.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs.....	41.00 to —
Tin.....	69.50 to —
Tin-Plates.....	7.25 to —
Steel ½ to ½.....	5.75 to —

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 7th June.—A quiet tone has prevailed in our market during the week under review, but rates have been fairly well maintained in all sections.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been placed at 380 per cent. to 383 per cent. premium and close with buyers at the latter rate. Nationals are unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been sold and are wanted at \$340. China Traders continue on offer at \$60. Yangtszes have been sold at \$120 and \$125. Cantons are obtainable at \$180.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires are in the market at \$355. China Fires are on offer at \$87½.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been placed in considerable quantities at \$34½, at which further shares are wanted. Indo-Chinas have ruled erratic and close quiet with probable sellers at \$135. China-Manillas have sold at \$62 and \$52 for the old and new shares respectively. Douglasses have been placed at \$53, and close with buyers at \$53½. China Mutuals are unchanged. Star Ferries are in demand at \$22 and \$24 for the old and new shares respectively. Shell Transports have declined to £2 15s. 0d., at which there are sellers.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been sold at \$136 and \$137. Luzons continue on offer at \$38.

MINING.—Panjoms are to be had at \$7½. Raubs have been placed at \$21 down to \$19, and further shares are to be had at the lower rate. Other stocks under this head are unchanged at quotations.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have improved to \$327½, at which a fair business has been done, and the market closes steady at this rate. Forward sales have been effected at \$335 August, \$340 September and \$345 October. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharfs have been placed in small lots at \$105, at which the market closes steady. New Amoy Docks are wanted at \$22½.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been placed at \$199, and \$200 and there are further buyers. Kowloon Lands have been sold at \$29 and \$30 and more shares are wanted. West Points are to be had at \$55. Hongkong Hotels are quiet at \$128. Humphreys Estates are in the market at \$13½.

COTTON MILLS.—There is no business to report under this head.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have been in active demand at \$19, and more shares are wanted. A. S. Watsons have declined to \$16. Hongkong Ropes have been placed at \$160 and \$165. United Asbestos have declined to \$11½, at which shares may be obtained. China Providents have improved to \$9½, at which there are buyers. Watkins are on offer at \$10, after sales at that figure. The Manila Investment Company, Limited, a new concern floated by Messrs. W. A. Pitton & Co., of Manila, is added to our list under this head, as also the Philippine Tobacco Investment Company, Limited, which absorbs most of

the Cigar Companies formerly run separately, and now floated with a capital of \$1,000,000 divided into 20,000 shares of \$50 each fully paid up. Business in the shares of the latter concern is reported at \$57, and there are further buyers of the stock at this rate.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	382½, p.ct. prm. = \$608.12.
China & Japan, ordy.	24	21.
Do. deferred	21	25 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$27, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$27, buyers
Foun. Shares	21	\$15, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	21	\$1.10.
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$20.
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$15	\$38, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	20, nominal
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$94, buyers
China Sugar	\$100	\$187.
Cigar Companies—		
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 50.
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 40.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 55.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 325.
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 25.
Hongkong	\$100	\$74.
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$74, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$55, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$19, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$50.
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$135, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$5	\$124, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$225, buyers
HK. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$74, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$128.
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$175, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$105.
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$165.
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$327.
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$180, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$87, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$80, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$355, sellers
North China	\$25	Tls. 180.
Straits	\$20	nominal.
Union	\$50	\$340, sales & buys.
Yangtze	\$60	\$125.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$199, buyers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$134, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30, buyers
West Point Building	\$50	\$55, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$38, sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$325.
Jebeu	\$5	\$5.20, sellers
Queen's Mines, Ltd.	250.	6 cents, sellers
Olivers Mines, A.	\$5	\$14, sellers
Do. B.	\$4	\$14, sellers
Punjoni	\$9	\$74, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.25.
Raub	18	\$19, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6	\$224, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$80, sellers
Philippine Tobacco Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$57, buyers
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$30	\$50, nominal
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$62, sales
China Mutual Pref.	\$40	\$52, sales
China Ordinary	\$10	\$12.
Do.	25	\$7.
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$534, buyers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$344, buyers
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$135.
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	21	\$2. 15s.
Star Ferry	\$10	(\$22, buyers (\$8), buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$3, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$114, sellers
Do.	\$10	\$20.
Wanchai Warehouse	\$37	nominal.
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$10, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$16, sellers
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$19, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 7th June.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1 11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/0
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.47
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.51½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.01
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47½
Credits, 60 days' sight	48½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	147½
Bank, on demand	147½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	147½
Bank, on demand	147½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72½
Private, 30 days' sight	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	34
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	24
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	118
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	24
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	24
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	59½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	10.07
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	52.25
BAR SILVER per oz.	27½

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 7th June.—The freight market continues firm, with a fair amount of business on record. From Saigon to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul is offered for medium sized carriers; to one Java (N.C.) 38 cents last; to Philippines, 43 cents per picul. Bangkok to Hongkong, 30 and 25 cents per picul nominal. Java to Hongkong, 28 cents per picul for dry sugar. Newchwang to Canton, 40 cents nominal. Moji to Hongkong, \$2.70; to Singapore, \$3.10 per ton. Sailing vessels.—The American ship *L. Schepp* has been chartered to load here for New York, rate private, and two vessels have been closed Rajang to Hongkong.

The following are the settlements:—

L. Schepp—American ship, 1,673 tons, hence to New York, private terms.
Vale of Doon—British barque, 669 tons, three trips, Rajang to Hongkong, \$8,500 in full.
Evie J. Ray—American barque, 919 tons, Rajang to Hongkong, \$10,000 in full.
Quarta—German steamer, 1,146 tons, Newchwang and Chefoo to Canton, \$11,750 in full.
Brand—Norwegian steamer, 1,510 tons, Karatsu to Manila and Iloilo, \$5 per ton.
Daphne—German steamer, 1,415 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$2.60 option Swatow \$2.85 per ton.
Duke of Fife—British steamer, 2,416 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.60 per ton.
Shantung—German steamer, 1,001 tons, Moji to Swatow, \$2.85 per ton.
Laisang—British steamer, 2,224 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$2.60 per ton.
Dunottar—British steamer, 2,274 tons, Moji to Manila, \$4.50 per ton.
China—German steamer, 1,271 tons, Hongkong to Saigon, \$3.15 per ton.
Pakistan—British steamer, 1,235 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul.
Independent—German steamer, 1,040 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul.
Thomachus—British steamer, 1,340 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 26 cents per picul.
Talies—German steamer, 939 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 27 cents per picul.
Pronto—German steamer, 633 tons, Saigon to Manila, 46 cents per picul.
Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Saigon to Tjilatjap, 46 cents per picul.
Tetartus—German steamer, 1,812 tons, Saigon to one port 35, two ports north coast Java, 37 cents per picul.

Hinsang—British steamer, 1,536 tons, Saigon to one port 36 cents, two ports north coast Java, 38 cents per picul.

Ningpo—British steamer, 1,240 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 38 cents per picul.

Picciola—German steamer, 875 tons, Saigon to Iloilo or Cebu, 42½ cents per picul.

Nanyang—German steamer, 1,060 tons, Saigon to one port 44 cents, two ports Philippines, 47 cents per picul.

Deuteros—German steamer, 1,001 tons, monthly, 3 months, \$8,700 per month.

Quarta—German steamer, 1,146 tons, monthly, about 7 months, \$9,400 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—*Coromandel* (str.), *Japan* (str.), *Glengarry* (str.), *Dardanes* (str.), *Machaon* (str.), *Socotra* (str.), *Prometheus* (str.), *Shinano Maru* (str.), *Hitachi Maru* (str.).

FOR LIVERPOOL.—*Rhipheus* (str.).

FOR MARSEILLES.—*Socotra* (str.), *Shinano Maru* (str.), *Natal* (str.), *Hitachi Maru* (str.).

FOR BREMEN.—*Hamburg* (str.), *Wittenburg* (str.).

FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Sambia* (str.), *Wittenburg* (str.), *Nurnberg* (str.).

FOR TRIESTE.—*India* (str.).

FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—*Brasmar* (str.), *Kaga Maru* (str.).

FOR VANCOUVER.—*Empress of India* (str.), *Athenian* (str.).

FOR PORTLAND (OREGON).—*Indravelli* (str.).

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—*Nippon Maru* (str.), *Peru* (str.).

FOR NEW YORK.—*Hillglen* (str.), *Indrani* (str.), *Arara* (str.), *Glenartney* (str.), *L. Schepp* (str.).

FOR SAN DIEGO.—*Belgian King* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

June—

- 2, Choysang, British str., from Canton.
- 2, Whampoa, British str., from Canton.
- 2, Java, British str., from London.
- 2, P. C. Kiao, British str., from Bangkok.
- 2, Sullberg, German str., from Chefoo.
- 2, Carthage, British hospitalship, from S'hai.
- 3, Chingwo, British str., from Liverpool.
- 3, Haiching, British str., from Taku.
- 3, Amara, British str., from Singapore.
- 3, Perla, British str., from Manila.
- 3, Tosa Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 3, Kweiyang, British str., from Canton.
- 3, Tsintan, German str., from Canton.
- 3, Chingtu, British str., from Sydney.
- 3, Tientsin, British str., from Swatow.
- 3, Hsieh Ho, British str., from Wuhu.
- 3, Woosung, British str., from Shanghai.
- 3, Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., from Antwerp.
- 3, Kong Beng, British str., from Bangkok.
- 3, Hinsung, British str., from Hongay.
- 4, Kaga Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
- 4, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
- 4, Chelydra, British str., from Calcutta.
- 4, Kwanglee, British str., from Canton.
- 4, Bormida, Italian str., from Bombay.
- 4, Chang's, British str., from Kobe.
- 4, Dr. H. J. Kaiser, Norw. str., from N'chwang.
- 4, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
- 4, Daybreak, British str., from Shanghai.
- 4, Machew, German str., from Bangkok.
- 5, Taishan, British str., from Saigon.
- 5, Sydney, French str., from Marseilles.
- 5, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 5, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Ula, British transport, from Calcutta.
- 5, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 5, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 5, Francois Arago, French cable steamer.
- 5, Ichang, British str., from Wuhu.
- 6, Talbot, British cruiser, from England.
- 6, Michael Jensen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 6, Benledi, British str., from Mororan.
- 6, Chusan, British str., from Bombay.
- 6, Anping, British str., from Canton.
- 6, Coromandel, British str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Sandakan, German str., from Sandakan.
- 6, Lianshing, British str., from Chefoo.
- 6, Kwangse, British str., from Java.
- 6, Salahadi, Dutch str., from Ramba.
- 6, Itola, British transport, from Calcutta.
- 7, Nanchang, British str., from Nanchang.
- 7, Tientsin, British str., from Canton.
- 7, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
- 7, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
- 7, Rhipheus, Dutch str., from Hongay.

London Office: 131, Fleet Street, E.C.